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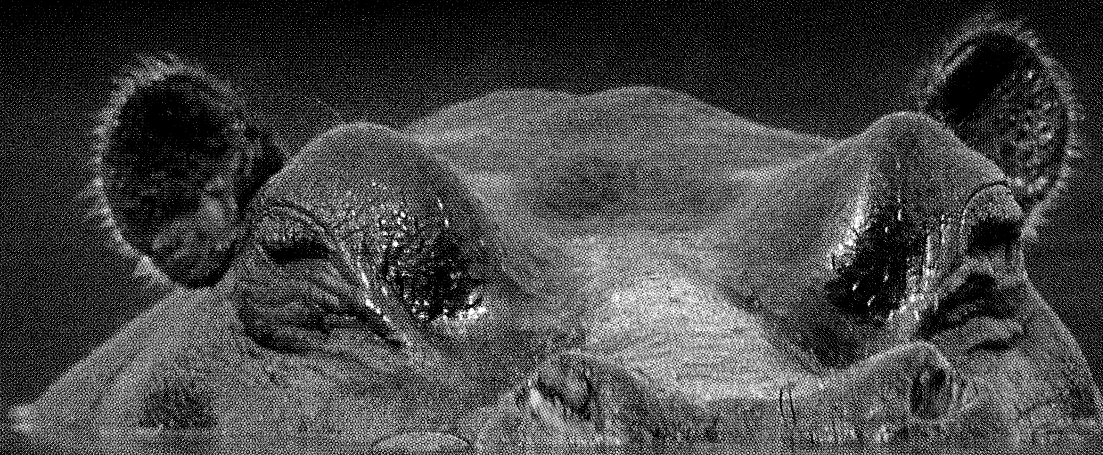


# HSUS NEWS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

SPRING 1997

VOL. 42 NO. 2





## A Bold Initiative for a Better World

*Agreement addresses wildlife protection, ecotourism in South Africa*

**T**he remaining years of this century will determine how people will interact with wild animals and the natural world throughout the new millennium. But the common mantra of our time is the so-called sustainable-consumptive use of wildlife, which reduces the value of every creature to dollars and cents and encourages nations to exploit wildlife for economic gain. For the sake of all animals, this mantra must be challenged now!

On January 22, 1997, I signed a historic agreement between The HSUS and South Africa's National Parks Board. Our agreement contains four elements vital to the quest for a more humane world.

First, it unites South Africa's National Parks Board and The HSUS in a study of immunocontraception in elephants. Historically, elephants have been shot in Kruger National Park to control their numbers. In the last year, however, the government of South Africa has agreed to discontinue such culling and, in cooperation with The HSUS (and our preeminent contraceptive-research team, led by Jay Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.), to study contraception as a humane alternative for the control of concentrated elephant populations. No one of a humane and caring spirit could help but celebrate the end to the suffering wrought by culling elephants. This alone is a major breakthrough both for the humane stewardship of elephants and for the broader field of wildlife contraception.

Second, The HSUS has agreed to participate in developing a cooperative ecotourism program that aids both the wildlife in South Africa's national parks and the local communities in areas surrounding the parks. We do this not just to counter those who value wild creatures only as wall trophies but also because it is part of a better economic model—one that requires sustainable economic development. South Africa is a strikingly beautiful country with varied and amazing wildlife. Its tourist facilities are the envy of Africa, and now that the stigma of apartheid is being removed, U.S. tourists will increasingly discover the richness and beauty of its unique parks. Ecotourism there will mandate a population of healthy, valued, living wildlife as it does here in the United States.

In the near future, we anticipate offering to HSUS members a first-class "sun" safari, or tour designed for observing or photographing

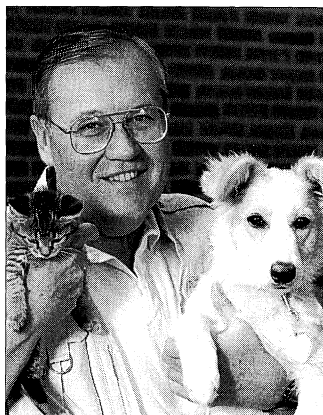
wildlife, to South Africa's national parks. For many of you, this may well represent the trip of a lifetime. When the program is developed, I will urge you to join us, not only for your own enrichment but also for the significant benefit the program can provide in furthering our global effort to protect animals.

Third, the National Parks Board of South Africa has agreed to implement the ideals of humane stewardship in the management and care of animals in South Africa's national parks. The South African government agrees to use the most-humane and least-disruptive techniques available to solve wildlife-management problems and specifically agrees to use lethal means only as a last resort when demonstrably necessary. Under the agreement, favored means of resolving problems are land acquisitions, translocation, and scientific inquiry to validate potential solutions.

Fourth, The HSUS has agreed to fund the projects covered by this agreement for a period of five years with a commitment of \$1 million.

I wish to salute the courage and insight of the HSUS board of directors in endorsing this historic agreement. I thank John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS vice president for Wildlife and Habitat Protection, for his essential assistance in drafting the document. The agreement and the negotiations that led up to it represent an extraordinary leap of faith for The HSUS and the National Parks Board of South Africa. Those who have watched The HSUS over the years will know that it has never been party to a similar agreement with anyone, let alone with an agency of a foreign country. These are new days, and they require new ways if wildlife is to survive. Humankind is witnessing an unprecedented assault on wildlife worldwide. At every turn, wildlife is succumbing to sustainable use and free trade. In South Africa's National Parks Board and its chairman, Enos Mabuza, and chief executive, G. A. "Robbie" Robinson, Ph.D.,

The HSUS found integrity, honesty, and a commitment to the ideals of humane stewardship reflective of our own. I am greatly encouraged by our partnership and believe we are engaged in creating a model that can deliver a new wave of humane management techniques for the world's exploited wildlife. Indeed, the success of this initiative will provide a key piece in the mosaic of the humane society we seek to create. ■



Paul G. Irwin, President

*Paul G. Irwin*

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# HSUS NEWS

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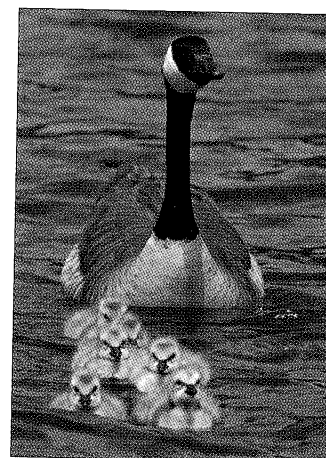
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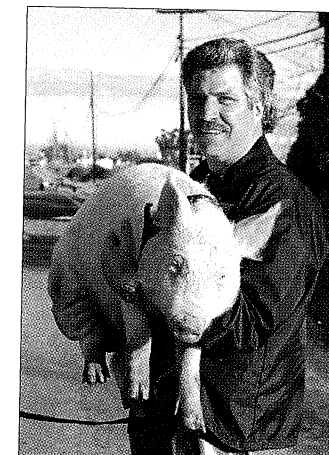
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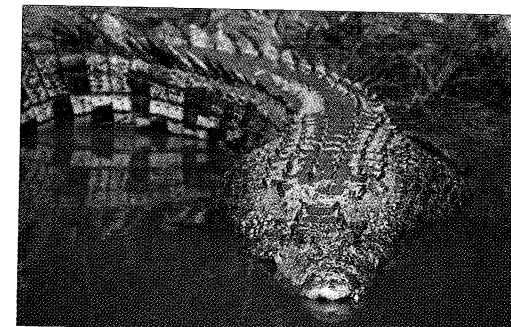
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Cover photo by  
Ian Murphy



# SPOTLIGHT

NOTES,  
COMMENT,  
AND MISCEL-  
LANY FROM  
THE HSUS

**THE 1996** annual convention of the National Association of Biology Teachers featured a daylong symposium organized by The HSUS titled "The Dissection Controversy: Bridging the Teacher/Student Gap." The purpose of the symposium, held October 10 in Charlotte, N.C., was to forge a better understanding of different viewpoints on dissection and pave the way toward avoiding teacher/student conflicts. More than fifty teachers and about twenty students, activists, and representatives of nongovernmental

organizations attended. Orangutan expert Birutė Galdikas, Ph.D., in the keynote address recalled how her early experiences with dissection drove her from biology and caused her to pursue anthropology. Two demonstrations, given by Digital Frog International, maker of a frog-dissection CD-ROM, and by A.D.A.M. (Animated Dissection of Anatomy for Medicine) Software, showcased affordable, state-of-the-art alternatives to animal dissection that are now widely available.

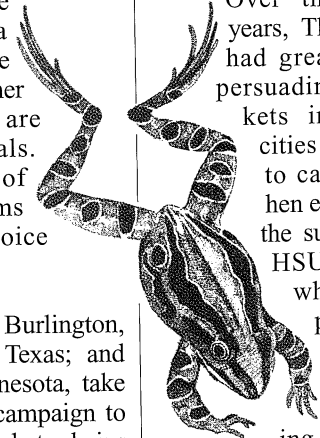
Participants expressed con-

sensus for student choice in dissection, or allowing students to choose without penalty a humane alternative to dissection or other exercises that are harmful to animals. Only a minority of U.S. school systems currently have choice policies.

**RESIDENTS** of Burlington, Vermont; Dallas, Texas; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, take note. The HSUS campaign to persuade supermarket chains

to carry uncaged-hen eggs is coming to your cities in 1997.

Over the past five years, The HSUS has had great success in persuading supermarkets in ten major cities coast to coast to carry uncaged-hen eggs. Credit for the success goes to HSUS members, who used their purchasing power to improve conditions for laying hens confined to small battery cages. For more information on how to join the egg campaign, contact HSUS Farm Animals and Bioethics staff.

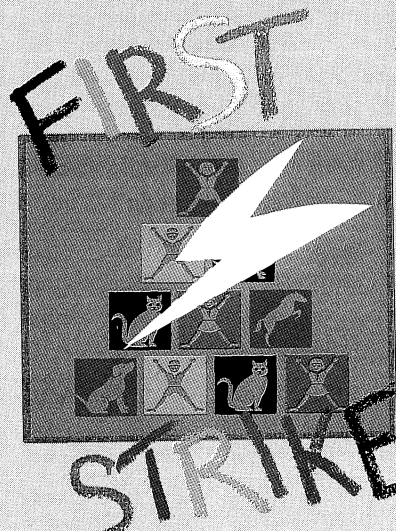


## SURVEY REFLECTS PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT VIOLENCE

**T**he HSUS has launched the First Strike™ Campaign to call attention to the connection between cruelty to animals and other human violence in our society. As part of this campaign, we funded a public-opinion survey in December to examine attitudes toward these issues as well as toward laws protecting animals. The poll surveyed about one thousand American adults and found that strong support exists for strengthening anticruelty laws. Eighty-one percent believe that anticruelty laws should be strengthened and 71 percent favor making cruelty to animals a felony.\* Almost 90 percent of Americans said laws concerning cruelty to animals should protect all animals, not just companion animals. Thirty-two percent said that they or a family member or friend had been a victim of family violence,

and more than 20 percent of those victims who had pets reported that their pets, too, had been abused.

The poll showed that Amer-



ANIMAL CRUELTY/HUMAN VIOLENCE

allowing the different agencies to share information to help them identify violent criminals or individuals who may be predisposed to violence. Eighty percent favored permitting agencies to share information on animal-cruelty cases to help identify cases of child abuse.

According to the survey, Americans believe that animal cruelty is a broad problem with far-reaching implications. Seventy-five percent said they would be more likely to support political candidates who favor stronger anticruelty laws.

The HSUS is not only helping communities make the connection between animal cruelty and human violence but also giving them the tools necessary for slowing the escalation of violence. □

\*The overall margin of error for the sample is plus or minus 3.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

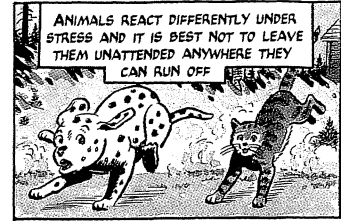
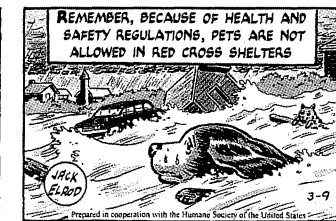
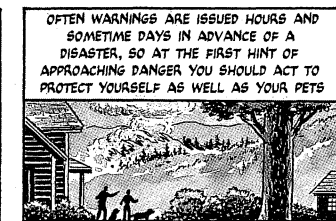
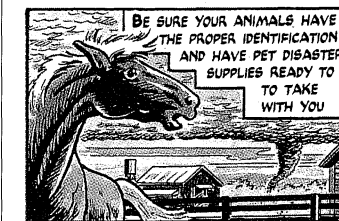
**THE HSUS** joined forces recently with several animal-protection organizations to establish a new, uniform standard for cosmetic companies seeking to adopt a "cruelty-free" policy or to strengthen their existing policy. The "Corporate Standard of Compassion for Animals" calls upon companies to set voluntarily a date after which they will not conduct or commission animal testing of their products or ingredients. The standard also obligates companies to ensure that their suppliers do not conduct or commission animal testing on any products or ingredients they supply to the companies.

The new standard was announced at a November press conference in New York City attended by representatives of participating cosmetic companies. The cosmetic companies, including the Body Shop, Island Dog Cosmetics, John Paul Mitchell Systems, Kiss

My Face, and Tom's of Maine, were among the first to adopt the standard.

The need for the new standard was bolstered by the results of a poll commissioned by the animal-protection groups. The results were announced at the press conference. Two-thirds of the five hundred women surveyed responded that they would be more likely to purchase personal-grooming or cosmetic products if they knew that neither the finished products nor their ingredients had been tested on animals. They wanted to know which companies are not testing on animals now, even though virtually all ingredients companies use have been tested on animals at some time in the past.

The HSUS will be incorporating the new standard into our campaign, "The Beautiful Choice®," which encourages consumers to make "the beautiful choice" by purchasing cosmetics from companies with a no-animal-testing policy. For information about the new standard, consumers



and corporations can contact The HSUS.

**ON MARCH 9** more than 175 Sunday newspapers across the country carried a timely *Mark Trail* comic strip about protecting pets from disaster. Cartoonist Jack Elrod created the strip, which addresses pet-

evacuation plans, specifically for The HSUS. The popular cartoonist helped bring the issue of pets and disaster preparedness to an estimated 22 million people.

**IN THE EARLY 1980s**, representatives of the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, The HSUS, local shelters, and the state health department created New Jersey's reduced-cost spay/neuter plan. The plan was so popular that new ways were needed to fund it. The resulting "Animal Friendly" state license plate has been copied, in substance, by states across the nation.

Gov. Christine Todd Whitman signed a bill in June 1995 creating a "watchdog committee" to protect the integrity of the program and its funding, and in December 1996 she asked HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg to

oversee the committee. The Domestic Companion Animal Council will report annually to New Jersey's governor and legislators and ensure the effectiveness of the spay/neuter plan.

**AS IF THERE** weren't already plenty of good reasons to buy ice cream, here's another one. From March through July, the HSUS name will appear on 4 million cartons of Ben & Jerry's World's Best Vanilla, Chunky Monkey, and Chocolate Fudge Brownie flavors as part of a promotion involving Ben & Jerry's and Animal Planet, the



Nina Austenberg and "Rusty-Bob" examine one of the "Animal Friendly" license plates that generate funds for New Jersey's reduced-cost companion-animal spay/neuter plan.





## IN MEMORIAM: PAUL E. TSONGAS

The HSUS and animals lost a powerful and compassionate friend on January 19, 1997, with the death of former U.S. senator from Massachusetts, Paul E. Tsongas. Since his retirement from the U.S. Senate in 1985, Senator Tsongas served as a legislative consultant to The HSUS on a variety of animal-protection issues, including wildlife-refuge reform, anti-pound-seizure legislation, and the development and validation of alternatives to the use of animals in research and testing.

In 1985 Senator Tsongas's first legislative project with The HSUS, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, was to convince forty-four members of the U.S. Senate to sign a letter to the U.S. secretary of state expressing their intent to block ratification of the North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty. The treaty, an agreement among the United

States, Canada, Japan, and Russia, promoted the subsidized killing of fur seals. His subsequent victories included convincing Congress to appropriate additional funds to develop new testing methods that do not use animals and to pass a bill to curb the use of stolen pets in research.

Throughout his twelve-year association with The HSUS, Senator Tsongas inspired us with his knowledge of and commitment to the issues, his warm sense of humor, and his tremendous courage in facing personal and professional challenges. Once, when questioned by a physician about his support for alternatives to animal testing, Senator Tsongas, who was at the time undergoing experimental treatment for lymphoma, calmly replied, "I can empathize with research animals—I've been a 'guinea pig' myself for the past few years."

Senator Tsongas was fifty-five. □

new cable network from the Discovery Channel. Each cartoon of these ice cream flavors will carry a coupon for an Animal Planet CD-ROM, described as "The Ultimate Interactive Guide to the Animal Kingdom," that introduces eight of the world's major ecosystems and their indigenous animals. In return for our participation, Discovery Channel

Multimedia, the developer of the Animal Planet CD-ROM, has pledged a generous donation to The HSUS.

**SINCE THE** launch of the HSUS consumer campaign against the raising and slaughtering of ratites (ostriches, emus, and rheas) for the novelty-fashion and exotic-meat trades, outbreaks of disease in

ratites have highlighted the risks that come with the farming of these birds (see the Fall 1996 *HSUS News*).

Eastern equine encephalitis, a viral disease spread by mosquitos, killed five emus in Maryland in late fall. The state secretary of agriculture commented, "We are concerned about this disease, which is usually fatal, and the potential for it to occur in people and livestock."

Avian influenza, allegedly linked to ostriches in the United States, caused China to threaten to ban the import of poultry products from ten states.

In South Africa, the world's largest producer of ostrich and ostrich by-products, all ratite-meat exports were halted when Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever, carried by ticks on ostriches, killed one of seventeen workers at an ostrich slaughterhouse who became infected.

Combined with the inhumane conditions and treatment to which these birds are subject, such health concerns underscore just how unsuitable ratites are for use as livestock. The HSUS will continue to inform the public of the real costs of exotic meat and to urge people to avoid the products of cruelty.

**THE HSUS** is offering a reward of as much as \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who willfully poisons, mutilates, tortures, or otherwise maliciously inflicts pain upon any farm animal or of anyone who attempts such cruelty.

All states have anticruelty laws and seventeen statutes consider certain acts of cruelty to animals felony offences under certain circumstances. Punishments for cruelty violations are fines as high as \$100,000 in Oregon and up to ten years in prison in Louisiana. Offering a reward specifically related to the prosecution of those who torture and

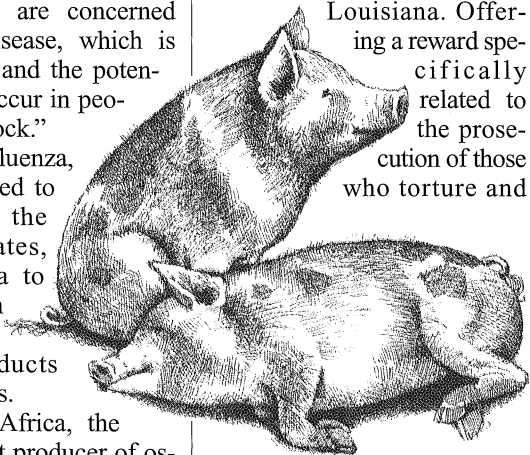
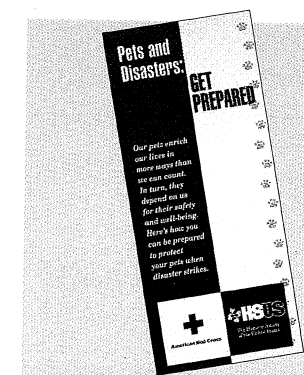


ILLUSTRATION BY BARBARA KIWAK

mutilate farm animals helps send the message that society views violence against *all* animals as unacceptable and punishable by law. ■

## CORRECTION:

The article "The Ratite Craze" in the Fall 1996 issue of the *HSUS News* erroneously stated that the owner of Pacesetter Ostrich Farm owed a \$5,000 fine for securities fraud. It has since come to our attention that the source material for this information was incorrect. To the knowledge of The HSUS, none of the persons who operate Pacesetter Ostrich Farm, nor Pacesetter Farm, Inc., has been accused or convicted of securities fraud nor been associated with any company in Virginia. The HSUS regrets the error. □

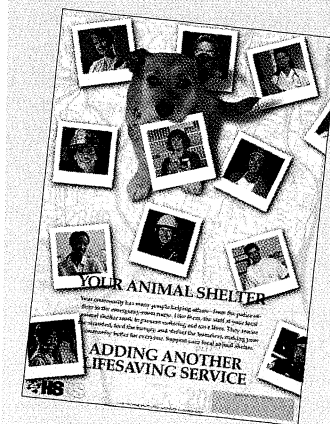


## Pets and Disasters: Get Prepared

A brochure from The HSUS and the American Red Cross providing tips on how to plan for disasters, assemble a disaster-supply kit, and evacuate pets. **PM2161** 25/\$4.25

## "Your Animal Shelter: Adding Another Lifesaving Service" Poster

A 12" x 17" color poster highlighting the important role of shelters in their communities. Created for National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week in November, but can be used anytime. **PM2150** 20¢ 25/\$3.75 100/\$10.00

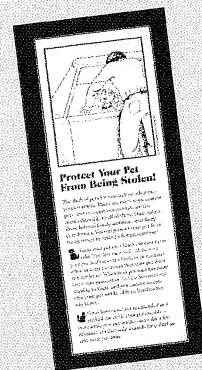


## Cruel Customs

A video revealing the cruelty involved in the annual Chincoteague pony roundup and auction. Length: 6 min. **AV53** VHS: \$8.00

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Here are just a few of the more than forty entertaining and educational new items you will find in the 1997-98 HSUS publications catalog. You'll also find many best-selling favorites from previous catalogs. Discover what we have to offer: Send in the coupon below for your free catalog. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

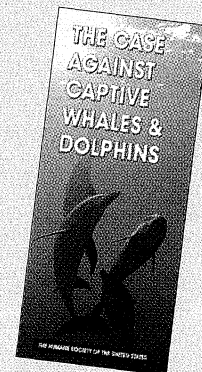


## Protect Your Pet from Being Stolen!

A flyer listing simple steps pet owners can take to prevent their pets from being stolen. **PM2167** 10¢ 100/\$3.50

## The Case against Captive Whales and Dolphins

A brochure outlining the HSUS policy of support for the rehabilitation and reintroduction into the wild of captive whales and dolphins. **PM2176** 25¢



## Can Wild Animals Be Kept as Pets?

A flyer warning against keeping wild animals as pets. Also available in Spanish. **PM2174** 10¢ 100/\$3.50 **Spanish Version** **PM2175** 10¢ 100/\$3.50

## Backyard Feeding of Wild Birds

A brochure discussing which foods wild birds prefer; illustrates the types of feeders that are safe for birds and explains how to prevent disease when feeding wild birds. **GR3235** 25¢



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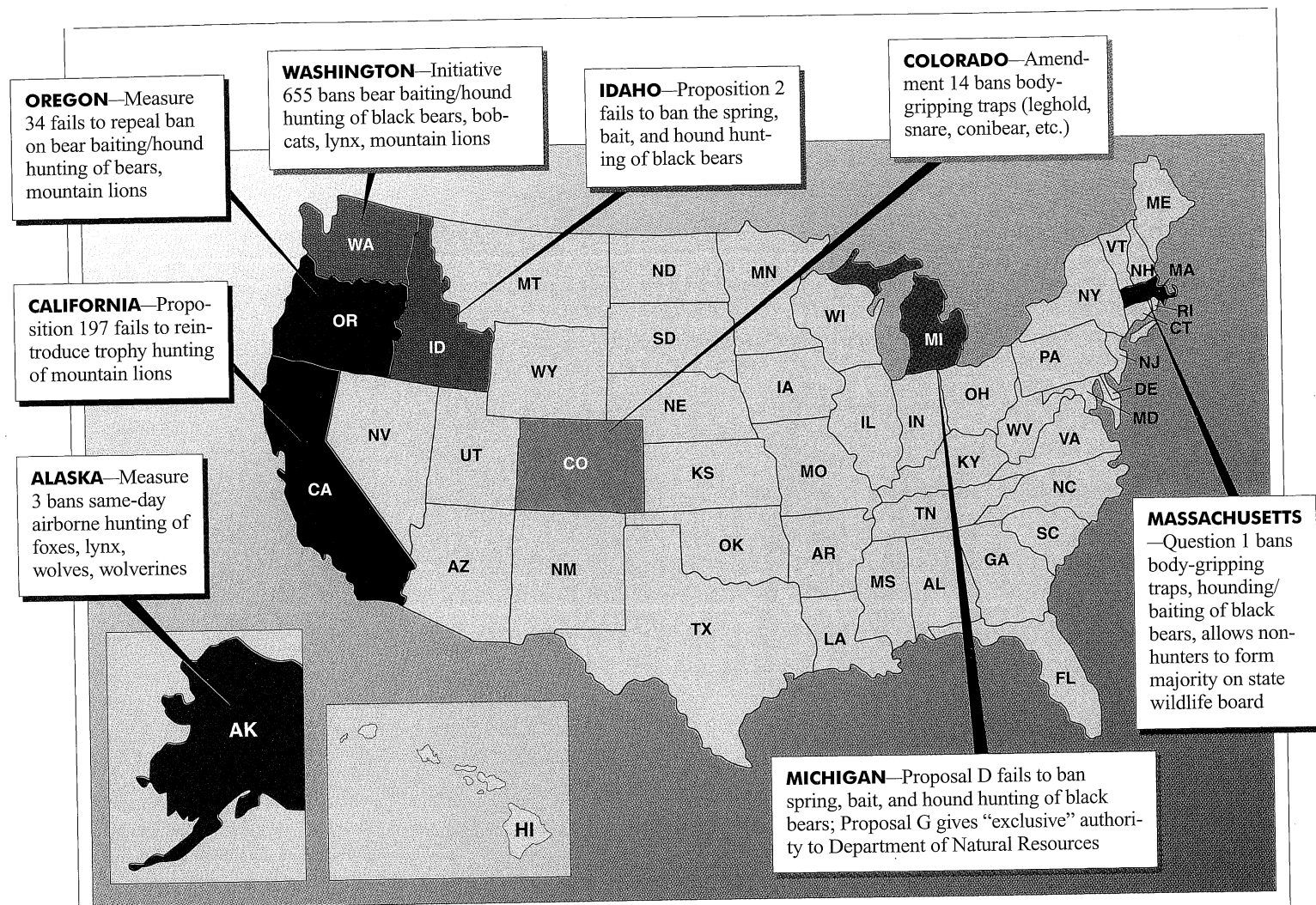
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## LEGISLATION

## Landslide Year for Wildlife

*Voters side with animals in six states*

The *Los Angeles Times* declared 1996 the “Year of the Animal,” due largely to the proliferation of ballot initiatives that took aim at unsporting hunting and trapping practices. Voters in eight different states were given the opportunity to decide the fate of their wildlife in 1996. Only the issues of tax measures and term limits for elected officials appeared more frequently on statewide ballots.

The voters delivered a stunning electoral verdict. Despite a blitz of advertising by the National Rifle Association and other hunting and trapping organizations—

fueled by \$4 million in spending—voters sided with animal advocates in six of the eight states. Their votes eliminated a range of inhumane and unsporting hunting and trapping practices and sent a message to state wildlife boards in all fifty states that the voting public will not tolerate such cruelty.

Between 1940 and 1990, voters approved only one statewide ballot initiative to restrict hunting or trapping—a 1972 South Dakota measure to ban mourning-dove hunting that was reversed by voters eight years later. Since 1990, however,

voters have sided with animal-protection advocates in ten of thirteen statewide initiative battles addressing hunting and trapping—a dramatic reversal of political fortune. This reversal can be traced to the success in 1990 of a historic California initiative that barred trophy hunting of mountain lions and set aside hundreds of millions of dollars for the protection of natural habitat. That success proved that ballot initiatives on wildlife issues are a viable means of bypassing state wildlife boards and legislatures dominated by hunting and trapping interests. It also sparked interest in more direct-voting efforts.

In 1992 Colorado voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 10, which banned hunting bears in the spring and using either bait to attract bears or dogs to trap bears while hunting. Then in 1994 Arizona voters prohibited the use on public lands of steel-jaw leghold traps and other body-gripping traps by passing Proposition 201, and Oregon voters out-

lawed bear baiting and the hound hunting of bears and mountain lions by approving Measure 18.

Buoyed by the succession of wins in the three western states, animal advocates, led by The HSUS, in 1996 undertook the most ambitious program of ballot-initiative activity in the history of the humane movement. Citizens gathered more than one million signatures to qualify six initiatives—in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Washington—for the November 1996 ballot.

At the same time the hunting lobby, reeling from its string of ballot losses, worked to repeal the wildlife-protection initiatives that had been passed in California and Oregon. Hunting groups qualified initiatives in both states and got their repeal measures on the ballots.

Although voters in Idaho and Michigan rejected measures to restrict bear hunting—after massive campaign spending by the hunting lobby—a tide of successes washed ashore along the entire Pacific Coast. Voters in California and Oregon overwhelmingly rejected the repeal measures. California’s Proposition 197, the measure to reintroduce the trophy hunting of mountain lions, was defeated by almost one million votes. The vote percentage was almost identical in Oregon, where 58 percent of voters rejected Measure 34. Oregonians showed no tolerance for a hunters’ campaign that charged that “animal-rights wackos” had duped the public into passing the 1994 measure.

Washington state voters joined the Californians and Oregonians and with a 63 percent majority approved Initiative 655 to ban bear baiting and the hound hunting of bears, bobcats, lynx, and mountain lions. And 58 percent of Alaska voters supported Measure 3 to ban same-day airborne hunting of wolves and other predators, a practice in which hunters track their targets from planes or helicopters, then land in otherwise inaccessible areas to shoot the exhausted animals.

In two states citizens voted to enact the strongest antitrapping laws in the nation. Coloradans, with a 53 percent to 47 percent vote in favor of Amendment 14, banned the use of all body-gripping traps, including steel-jaw leghold traps, snares,

## INHUMANE, UNSPORTING HUNTING PRACTICES: A PRIMER

U.S. citizens object to baiting, hounding, and other such practices because they are inhumane and unsporting. Spring hunting, for instance, inevitably results in the shooting of nursing females, dooming their young to starvation, predation, or accident. Bear baiters set out barrels filled with animal carcasses, decaying fruits, doughnuts, and lumps of grease and wait for a bear to discover the rotting foods. The hunter, lurking nearby and seeking a trophy, then shoots the feeding bear.

Hound hunters set packs of dogs on bears, mountain lions, and bobcats. The dogs wear collars fitted with radio transmitters. During the chase the bear or cat will sometimes turn and fight the dogs, resulting in bloody battles that maim and occasionally kill both the pursuers and the pursued. Most bears or cats will finally seek refuge from the dog pack by climbing a tree, but that refuge is illusory. A trophy hunter, using a handheld directional antenna, locates his distant hounds—and consequently the treed bear or cat—by following the radio signal emitted from the dogs’ collars. He then walks to the base of the tree and shoots

the bear or cat from close range.

Baiting and hounding have long been used in hunting, although the use of radio-transmitting collars is a recent convention. Both are methods of hunting favored by commercial hunting guides and outfitters, who can, using such inhumane tactics, all but guarantee their clients an opportunity to kill a trophy bear or cat. Improving their odds is vitally important to commercial guides since clients will pay \$2,000 or \$3,000 for a trophy animal, usually with a “no kill, no pay” arrangement.

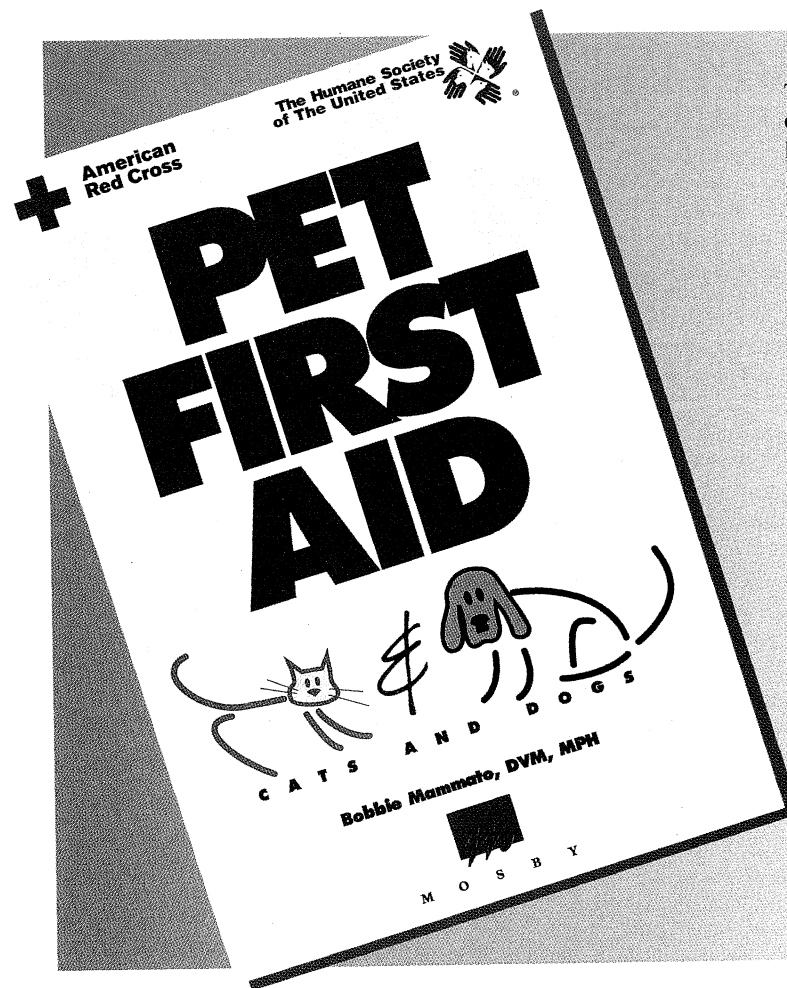
Trapping, too, has drawn public ire. Steel-jaw leghold and other body-gripping traps are indiscriminate, catching any hapless animal who triggers them. These devices—set out by commercial trappers seeking pelts to sell to the fur trade—do not distinguish between pets and predators. Animals caught in such traps are known to twist or chew off a limb in an effort to escape.

Baiting, hounding, and steel-jaw trapping are the moral and sporting equivalent of shooting a bear in a cage at a zoo, yet state wildlife boards defend the practices. □



*Black bears have been the targets of inhumane and unsporting hunting practices such as bear baiting, hound hunting, and spring hunting in many different states.*





The HSUS and the American Red Cross have collaborated on a book to assist animals and the people who love them. It's *Pet First Aid: Cats & Dogs*, published by Mosby Lifeline. More than 140 pages, and illustrations, detail the most common pet emergencies and first-aid treatments, from puncture wounds to CPR. *Pet First*

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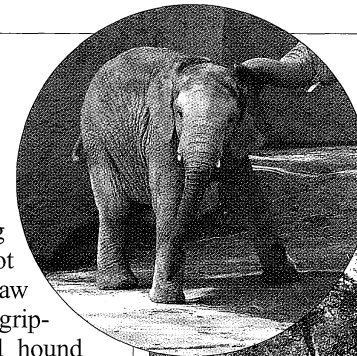
and conibear traps. Massachusetts voters, by approving Question 1 in a landslide, not only banned the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and other body-gripping traps but also outlawed hound hunting of bears and bobcats and eliminated a requirement that hunters and trappers form the majority on the state's Fisheries and Wildlife Board (FWB).

The prospect of reform of the Massachusetts FWB inspired intense opposition from the hunting lobby. Question 1 broke hunters' stranglehold on the FWB and gave the governor the power to select any qualified individual to serve, hunter or nonhunter. The appointment of non-hunters and animal-protection advocates to state wildlife boards—a prospect made far more likely in Massachusetts, for instance—will produce lasting and beneficial changes for all species at the mercy of these boards.

The HSUS led the national effort to pass the 1996 initiatives, committing staff, for example, to efforts in Massachusetts, Colorado, and other states. These efforts, however, could not have succeeded without tremendous support from other organizations and activists. The American Humane Association, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Denver Dumb Friends League, Fund for Animals, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mountain Lion Foundation, Progressive Animal Welfare Society, and others played major roles in the campaigns.

The time has passed when only hunters expressed an interest in policies governing the treatment and taking of wildlife. State wildlife boards around the country invite more bruising initiative battles if they disregard growing public sentiment that overwhelmingly favors greater protections for wildlife.

The HSUS is working with other national groups and with local organizations in California to organize a 1998 initiative to ban *all* trapping and hound hunting in that state. We urge citizens to join this effort and similar ones launched in the coming months.—*Wayne Pacelle, HSUS vice president, Government Affairs and Media*



Disney's new Animal Kingdom theme park will leave elephants in Kruger National Park undisturbed; it instead will take elephants from captive populations.

## CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

# Disney Does an About-Face *New park will not display wild elephants*

**F**or some time the Walt Disney Corporation has planned to open Disney's Animal Kingdom, its largest theme park yet, in 1998. The five-hundred-acre zoological park will feature three different animal themes: mythical animals, extinct animals, and living animals, with animals from around the world living in near-natural habitats.

Located in Florida on the grounds of former orange groves, the park sounded like a magic kingdom. But late last summer, reports reached The HSUS that Disney officials planned to capture established social groups of wild elephants from South Africa's Kruger National Park and display these elephants in the park.

In the fall Disney confirmed in a public meeting that it intended to proceed with the capture plans. The HSUS and other animal-protection groups were stunned. Such a large-scale capture and

removal of wild elephants for commercial display would be unprecedented in zoo history.\* The news was especially surprising since Disney had originally maintained that, although the facility would be an adventure park, its underlying mission would be to inform the public about the importance of conservation and habitat preservation. Press materials about Disney's Animal Kingdom claimed that the park would acquire captive-born animals, wild orphans, or individuals rescued from some dangerous condition or habitat by wildlife officials.

Approximately three hundred elephants live in U.S. zoos accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and an estimated three hundred more are kept in private facilities. With such a population serving as a pool from which Disney could stock its park, Disney had no justification for capturing wild elephants.



The HSUS and the animal-protection community worldwide could not accept Disney's plans. We swung into action.

Disney found itself in a potentially explosive and embarrassing position. The criticism from the animal-protection community began to mount, and at the same time, Disney realized that it could garner tremendous positive publicity if it were to provide a refuge for elephants in captivity and in need of assistance.

In mid-December 1996, Disney informed The HSUS that it was abandoning plans to capture elephants and would instead seek individuals already in captivity. Disney's decision means not only that several elephant groups will continue to live free in South Africa but also that elephants now kept captive in substandard conditions may experience a major improvement in environment.

HSUS President Paul G. Irwin commended Disney's announcement. With this policy Disney's Animal Kingdom can move beyond traditional zoos that merely exhibit animals. By seeking out those captive or captive-born elephants in need of appropriate care and by providing a state-of-the-art habitat for them better than that found in any other zoo, the new park could be a model for facilities all over the world. Disney's new commitment will benefit the elephants and promote the humane management of all animals both in the wild and in captivity. In addition, it will demonstrate the care and concern Disney claims it has for wildlife by placing the needs of animals foremost.

The HSUS hopes that abandoning the elephant-capture plan is a sign that Disney's Animal Kingdom will operate with a heightened awareness of humane treatment and responsible stewardship for animals in its care. We hope that it will be a zoological park that expresses the humane spirit in all of its facilities and policies.—Richard H. Farinato, HSUS director, Captive Wildlife Protection Program

\*The HSUS opposes the capture and confinement of wild animals for exhibition in zoos or other arenas. Only an overwhelming need, such as the preservation and restoration of a threatened or endangered species, might justify a wild-capture plan. Historically, however, very few species have benefited from zoos' breeding or restoration programs.



For fifteen years bison have been leaving Yellowstone in the winter, in search of clearer pastures. This winter more than 1,000 of the wanderers have been killed.

## WILDLIFE

# A Bad Winter for Bison

## Slaughter and weather take Yellowstone toll

**T**he winter of 1996–97 was the worst in recent years for the embattled bison of Yellowstone National Park. The livestock industry and Montana officials forced park rangers to begin a brutal capture, test, and slaughter operation that, combined with an exceptionally harsh winter, killed hundreds of bison. As of mid-February, more than 1,000 of the park's 4,000 bison had died, and it was feared that more would succumb before winter's end.

For almost fifteen years, bison, ranging in numbers from a few dozen to a few hundred, have been crossing out of Yellowstone during the winter. Following trails groomed by the National Park Service (NPS) for recreational snowmobiles, the bison have descended out of the park to search for winter pastures relatively clear of snow and ice. These irregular migrations have prompted strong, hostile re-

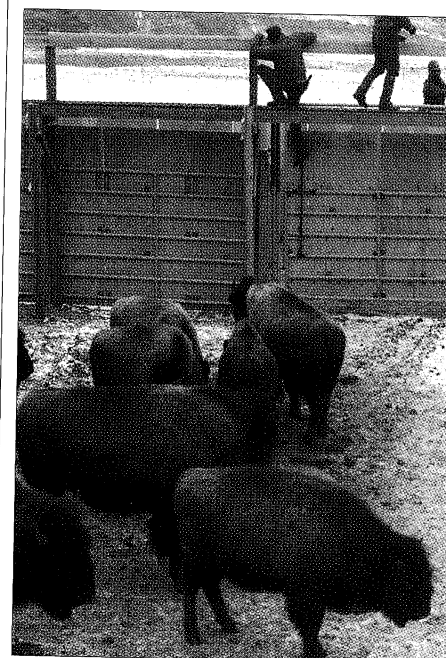
actions from neighboring ranchers, who fear that the bison will transmit brucellosis, a disease that causes abortion in cattle, to their livestock. These fears are wildly exaggerated: infection rates in bison are low, and there is no evidence that cattle have ever caught brucellosis from free-ranging bison, despite the presence of the disease bacteria in Yellowstone bison for almost eighty years.

Nevertheless, the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has aggressively taken up the cry of the local ranchers. Rather than work to develop a conservative and careful management plan to ensure separation of cattle and bison (and thereby minimize the already slight risk of disease transmission), the DOL called for blood. The state of Montana sued the NPS in federal court to force Yellowstone officials to take drastic

action against their own bison. Buckling under intense legal and political pressure, the NPS agreed to support the lethal operation that began in December 1996.

Conducted principally by the DOL in cooperation with the NPS, the operation transformed Yellowstone's boundary regions into a bison ranch and killing ground. Bison were trapped in corrals in and near the park, close to the towns of West Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana. Near Gardiner, all bison leaving the park were trapped and shipped to slaughter, regardless of whether or not they were infected with brucellosis. At West Yellowstone, the trapped bison were tested for brucellosis—using an unreliable blood test that exaggerates as much as fourfold the frequency of the disease. Even bulls were tested, although there is no known mechanism for transmission of brucellosis from bull bison to cattle. Any animals who tested positive for the disease were sent to slaughter. All pregnant cows were slaughtered, regardless of their test results. Bison that escaped the trapping were presumed to be infectious and, when found on private lands, shot.

The mid-February death toll exceeded



Yellowstone park rangers work the chutes of a pen of young bison awaiting their shipment to slaughter.

the previous whole-winter record established in 1988–89, when 569 bison were shot by Montana wildlife officials and NPS rangers. The very existence of some of Yellowstone's most visible bison herds was threatened. Driven by deep, crusty snow and ice, virtually the entire bison herd of Yellowstone's northern range moved northwest toward Gardiner, where it risked annihilation. Alarmed by the scale of the slaughter and the threats to the park's bison population, the superintendent of Yellowstone sent two letters to Montana governor Marc Racicot, imploring him to scale back the trap-and-slaughter program and the shooting and to provide the bison with a reprieve.

The HSUS believes Yellowstone and its bison must be protected permanently. The test-and-slaughter program must end; a rational brucellosis-management program must be developed; and, if neces-

sary, a humane program to control bison populations *outside the park* must be implemented (using immunocontraception if feasible). In the meantime, HSUS Northern Rockies Regional Director Dave Pauli is serving on a three-person panel chosen by Governor Racicot to review and recommend changes in bison-handling practices during trapping and shipping. This key appointment gives The HSUS a prominent platform from which to work to ease the suffering of animals victimized by this politically driven slaughter.

The Montana economy is dependent on tourism and the state's public image is important to its elected officials. Protest the bison killings to the Honorable Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620. Letters can bring an end to the trap and slaughter of Yellowstone's magnificent bison.—Allen Rutberg, Ph.D., HSUS senior scientist

## ANIMAL RESEARCH

# Milestones in Alternatives

## Awards, Internet, and loan programs mark '96

**P**romoting alternatives to the use of animals in biomedical research, testing, and education has proven to be one of the most productive ways to curb the suffering and killing of animals in laboratories. The alternatives approach, also known as the "Three Rs," stems from a pioneering 1959 book written by William Russell and Rex Burch. It seeks to *replace* animals in specific procedures, *reduce* the number of animals used, and *refine* procedures so that animals experience less pain or suffering.

The highlight for 1996 in the alternatives arena was the Second World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, held in the Netherlands October 20–24. More than eight hundred representatives from academia, animal protection, government, and industry heard progress reports on the development, evaluation, regulatory acceptance,

and implementation of alternative methods. The HSUS helped organize and fund the Congress, and several HSUS representatives were featured speakers. (We also funded the distribution of a groundbreaking report, *The Three Rs: The Way Forward*, to all conferees).

We used the venue to bestow our annual Russell and Burch Award, which is given to a scientist who has made a major contribution to the advancement of the Three Rs. The HSUS was honored to have His Royal Highness Prince Laurent of Belgium present the 1996 award, which carries a \$5,000 prize. The winner was Andrew Rowan, D.Phil., a former HSUS staff member and current director of the Tufts University Center for Animals and Public Policy in Massachusetts. Professor Rowan has devoted most of his professional life to advancing Messrs. Russell and Burch's approach. The award ceremony

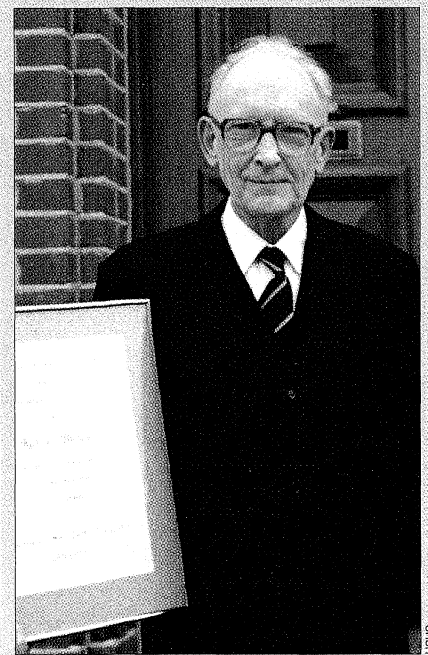


## IN MEMORIAM: REX L. BURCH

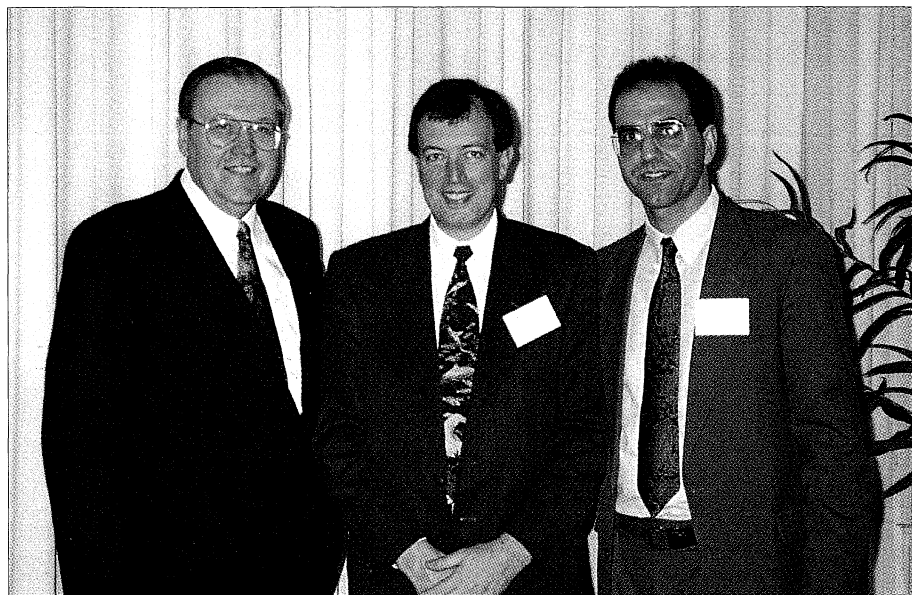
On March 9, 1996, Rex Burch died after a long battle with cancer.

He and fellow British scientist William Russell wrote the 1959 landmark book, *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*, which expounded the principles of the Three Rs of replacement, reduction, and refinement. Though the book was essentially ignored until the 1970s, it eventually spawned a quiet revolution within science and animal protection and became responsible for decreasing the suffering and killing of countless animals in the world's laboratories.

After the book's publication, Messrs. Burch and Russell lost touch with each other and were unaware of developments in the alternatives field. It was not until the early 1990s, after The HSUS sought approval to name an award after them, that the two were reunited and made aware of their legacy. Mr. Burch was seventy.



Rex Burch holds a certificate of appreciation presented to him by The HSUS in Sheringham, England, in 1993.



HSUS President Paul G. Irwin (left) and Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D., (right) congratulate Russell and Burch Award winner Andrew Rowan, D.Phil., in the Netherlands.

ny was dedicated to the memory of Rex Burch (see sidebar).

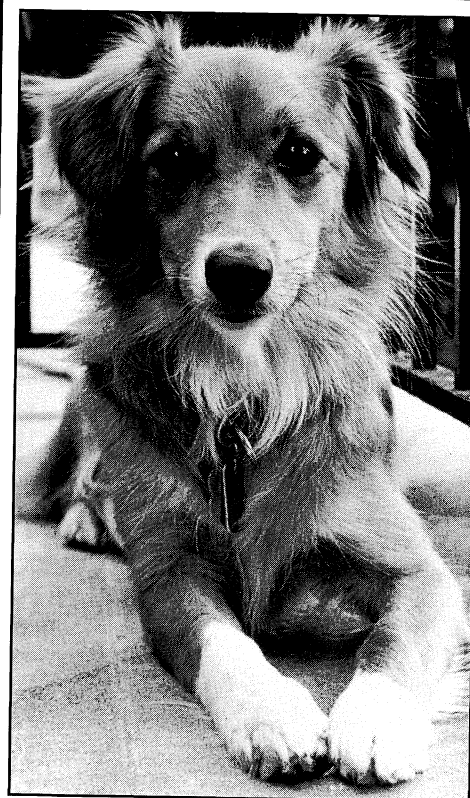
For the second year, the Gillette/HSUS Alternatives Research Program funded two research projects to advance the science of alternative methods. The Gillette Company funds the program and, with The HSUS, selects the winning grant proposals. The 1996 winners were scientists from Schepens Eye Research Institute (who also won in 1995) and from New York Medical College. Both winning projects aim to help replace the Draize Eye Irritancy Test, which assesses chemical-induced eye irritation in rabbits.

In 1996 The HSUS helped launch an ambitious new project to make information on alternative methods readily available to scientists and others worldwide via the Internet. Researchers and educators in several countries are required by law to consider alternatives to painful procedures on animals, yet information on alternative methods and emerging technology related to alternatives is not readily accessible. The new project is intended to link those alternatives databases that are already on the Internet but are not interconnected, create "on-line" technical summaries of key topics within the alternatives field, and provide guidance to scientists seeking alternatives information.

Our growing list of partners in this project includes the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing at Johns Hopkins University, the Procter & Gamble Company, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health.

We also expanded our alternatives loan program, which makes alternatives to dissection (and other classroom uses of animals) available to students and teachers free of charge. Scores of teachers and students have borrowed from our inventory of more than a hundred three-dimensional models, CD-ROMs, videotapes, and other materials covering the biology of a wide array of species, including cats, frogs, humans, invertebrates, pigs, rats, and sharks.

The increasing use of alternative methods is partly responsible for the decreasing use of animals in laboratories. Recent estimates suggest that animal use in laboratories is down 20–50 percent worldwide (to under 100 million) and 20–40 percent in the United States (to approximately 20 million). The HSUS will not rest until animals no longer suffer and die in laboratories. We anticipate that promoting alternative methods will continue to play a prominent role in that process.—Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D., HSUS vice president, *Animal Research Issues*



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LIKE IT OR NOT, WHAT HUMAN BEINGS KNOW ABOUT ANIMALS and their abilities greatly affects how we view them and treat them. Unfortunately, the legacy of seventeenth-century French scientist and philosopher René Descartes still influences how humans treat our nonhuman animal brethren. Descartes argued that animals were soulless brutes, unthinking automatons, mere machines whose cries when hurt were nothing more than the squeaking of parts, as a rusty old can squeaks and groans when pierced or crushed.

Through observation and discovery, a great deal has been learned about the behavior and inner workings of animals since Descartes's time. Most educated people

There are many illustrations of the complexity and sophistication with which animals live their lives. Animals often demonstrate behaviors that suggest they can think and thereby make decisions. The relevance of animal awareness and thought to animal protection is obvious: if we acknowledge that animals have minds, then our moral obligations toward them are more urgent.

#### LANGUAGE

Language is often cited as an indicator of human superiority, but language is not unique to the human species. For many years chimpanzees were thought incapable of communicating by means of words and phrases, until researchers realized that chimps' vocal apparatus was inadequate for the task. When sign language, which does not require speech, was taught to the apes instead, their vocabularies expanded rapidly to include hundreds, even thousands, of words. But animals do not simply adapt to or adopt human languages. There is ample evidence that many species have developed languages of their own. African vervet monkeys use three distinct alarm calls to indicate the presence of either eagles, leopards, or pythons. When the "eagle" call is given, the other monkeys scramble to the safety of the base of a tree; when the "leopard" call is given, they move to

the tips of branches, where a leopard dare not venture. "Python" calls put the monkeys on general alert. The value of being able both to issue and to recognize alarm calls with accuracy becomes apparent when one considers the risks to a monkey who ventures out onto a remote branch in the presence of an eagle or huddles next to a tree trunk when a leopard is about!

We cannot consider animals' inability to use *our* language as evidence of *their* inability to think. Surely the chirps of frogs and crickets, the songs of birds, and the dances of honeybees mean much more to their own kind than they mean to us. Does our lack of comprehension mean *we* lack intelligence as a species?

today regard as misguided the notion that animals—at least animals endowed with backbones—cannot experience pain and suffering. However, the belief that animals have *minds* remains quite controversial. Happily, the traditional view that the mind is a unique attribute of humankind is being rigorously challenged by both precise studies and anecdotal observations. Almost anyone who has lived with companion animals will attest to their ability to think. The distinct personalities of our beloved dogs and cats and their ability to respond meaningfully to our communications with them (e.g., "Spot, go fetch my slippers") suggest strongly that these animals aren't merely alive—they have lives.

# ANIMAL MINDS

BY JONATHAN BALCOMBE, PH.D.

A sea otter cracks open a mollusk using a rock cradled on his belly—an example of tool use familiar to thousands of documentary viewers.



Though we cannot yet translate the complex languages of whales and dolphins, we do know that some species, such as the orca of *Free Willy* fame, speak in distinct dialects, a phenomenon that implies a great richness in those languages.

#### TOOL USE

A century ago few if any examples of tool use in animals, another marker for the presence of intelligence, had been described. Today numerous examples are recognized, with new ones being uncovered each year. Thanks to televised documentaries, many people have seen chimpanzees using plant stems to fish termites from their mounds, Egyptian vultures aiming rocks at ostrich eggs to crack them open, and sea otters opening mussel shells by hammering them against a rock cradled on their bellies, all perfect examples of animals using tools much the same way humans might. Another example was discovered in 1995, when researchers witnessed the manufacture and use of two distinct tools by a crow species in southeast Asia. The birds, using their beaks, fashion both tools from palm fronds and wield each one with a specific movement to remove insects from tree crevices. Remarkably, just as human beings don't throw a screwdriver away after each use, the crows retain their tools as valued possessions.

Food, however, is not the only thing that inspires animals to develop and use tools. Elephants, for instance, hold sticks in their trunks and use them to scratch themselves in otherwise hard-to-reach places.

#### OPPORTUNISM

During my graduate studies in animal behavior, I spent considerable time watching red bats hunt for moths beneath street lights. Often I watched as one bat who was pursuing a moth was joined suddenly by a second bat—who sometimes succeeded in catching the moth. Later when I played recordings of red-bat hunting calls ("feeding buzzes" in bat-behavior jargon) through a loudspeaker to other foraging red bats, they were very

attracted to the speaker. It became apparent that red bats eavesdrop on the calls of other bats to identify good feeding opportunities.

On a Florida beach I saw an alert gull fly quickly to the side of a sanderling (a small sandpiper) who had begun to dig

furiously after some morsel of food. The gull watched attentively, apparently hoping to obtain a scurrying crustacean for him/herself. It is easier to explain this sort of behavior by suggesting that a thinking animal recognizes the situation and responds accordingly, than it is to suggest—as Descartes might have done—that the animal is machinelike and operates according to a complex series of instinctive reflexes.

#### DREAMING

Anyone who has lived with cats and dogs will have observed them blinking, twitching, "running," and vocalizing in their sleep, obviously dreaming. Dreaming involves the formation of highly realistic images in one's mind. If other species dream, does this not also imply that they, too, have minds?

#### CONCLUSION

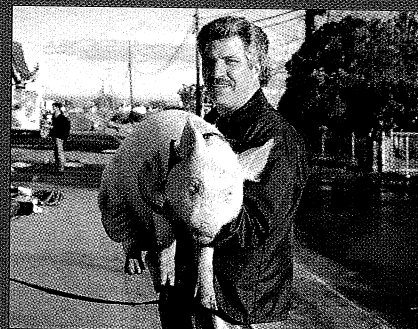
When we reflect on the possibility that nonhuman animals have minds, we are casting aside the dogma of an earlier era. The belief that animals are unfeeling brutes is convenient for those who profit from their suffering. Yet one of humanity's most admirable traits is its ability to empathize. It remains to be seen how much animals will benefit from humanity's relatively recent appreciation of their minds. But when we realize their abilities, the case for empathy toward animals and the imperative that we treat them humanely and respectfully can only be enhanced. ■

*Jonathan Balcombe, Ph.D., is HSUS associate director for education, Animal Research Issues.*

A chimpanzee fishes for tasty termites by inserting twigs into a termite mound and removing them once the termites have hopped on-board.







SOMEWHERE IN America it's raining right now, the snow is melting, and rivers are flowing over their banks. Wherever that is, people near those rivers should heed the experience of many people and animals in the western states, for whom the first few weeks of January were a time of fear, loss, and tragedy.

A tropical storm system, called by some a "pineapple express," battered the region with record rainfalls. In addition to leaving parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington in shambles, the resulting

**BY HSUS HEAD-  
QUARTERS AND  
FIELD STAFF**

# HELP IN HIGH WATERS

FITZMAURICE/ANFRANCISCO CHRONICLE; ABOVE RIGHT: ORTEGA/ANIS





**Previous pages:** An unidentified good Samaritan in Yuba County leads to high ground horses left behind by residents fleeing California floods; Eric Sakach carries a rescued pig to a recovery area.

floods are believed to have claimed the lives of more than twenty people and thousands of animals. In northern California steady, warm rains dissolved mountain snowpacks causing devastating mud slides. Dams were filled to capacity and had to be opened to release runoff. A combination of rain-swollen rivers, heavy rains, and a succession of levee breaks forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, pets, and farm animals throughout California's fertile Central Valley.

The HSUS maintained contact with animal-protection agencies within the region's affected areas and, on January 3, sent a disaster-relief team to communities needing assistance. The team was assembled by HSUS West Coast Regional Director Eric Sakach from HSUS staff members from across the country, including Geoff Simmons, West Coast Regional program director, Ken Johnson, Southeast Regional program coordinator, and Jorge Ortega, senior associate, Animal Care and Sheltering. "Often, there is some initial confusion among agencies in disasters of this magnitude," said Mr. Sakach. "It's normal for many well-meaning people to want to get involved. However, for their safety and the safety of others, it's very important that animal-rescue and -relief operations be carefully coordinated with other disaster officials, using people who are properly trained and equipped."

The HSUS team first rushed to Yuba County, where team members worked under the direction of California Veterinary Medical Association disaster area veterinary coordinator Garry Goemann, D.V.M., and Yuba County Animal Control supervi-



sor Bob Tiedemann. Acting in an advisory capacity, the team helped set up a triage facility near Dr. Goemann's veterinary practice in Marysville, using a large tent provided by military personnel. Over the course of the week that followed, the HSUS team helped to coordinate rescue efforts in heavily flooded areas and assisted with field rescue operations, all of which resulted in the rescue of hundreds of stranded and displaced dogs, cats, horses, and farm animals in the communities of Olivehurst, Linda, and Arboga. The Yuba-Sutter Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, United Animal Nations, Placer County Animal Control, and El Dorado County Animal Control provided additional assistance, as did personnel from the California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In Yuba County the daring rooftop rescue of "Rodeo," a stranded border collie, by a news crew in a helicopter drew national attention to the plight of animals in disasters and provided an inspiring moment of victory over the catastrophic floods. All rescued animals were first taken to the Marysville triage facility, where they were examined and given necessary veterinary treatment. From there, animals were moved to a holding facility at the nearby Placer County fairgrounds where volunteers cared for them until they could be reunited with their owners.

The gruesome scenes viewed by the HSUS team served as reminders that protecting horses and farm animals can be one of the most difficult things to do in many disasters. As floodwaters receded, HSUS team members reported seeing hundreds of dead horses and farm animals scattered

**The first stop for animals rescued from Yuba County floods was a triage facility adjacent to a veterinary clinic, where they were examined before being sent to a recovery area in Placer County.**

across the countryside. According to Mr. Sakach, one dairyman's experience was not an isolated tragedy. "He lost more than two hundred Holstein dairy cows when a saturated levee suddenly collapsed. It was an eerie picture of contorted, tangled bodies that will haunt all of us forever. One look and you knew these animals had suffered terribly in their struggle to live. We couldn't believe that so many animals were dead."

While the HSUS team worked alongside dairy farmers and livestock owners,

**Mr. Sakach assists local volunteers and farmers in rescuing a cow from a flooded Yuba County dairy. Far left: Volunteers load animals pulled from rooftops into the swift-water rescue vessel.**

ing around us. Later, we received reports from helicopter crews that twenty animals from the herd had found their way to a small island. Daily drops of hay helped to keep them alive, but the rest of the herd was never sighted again."

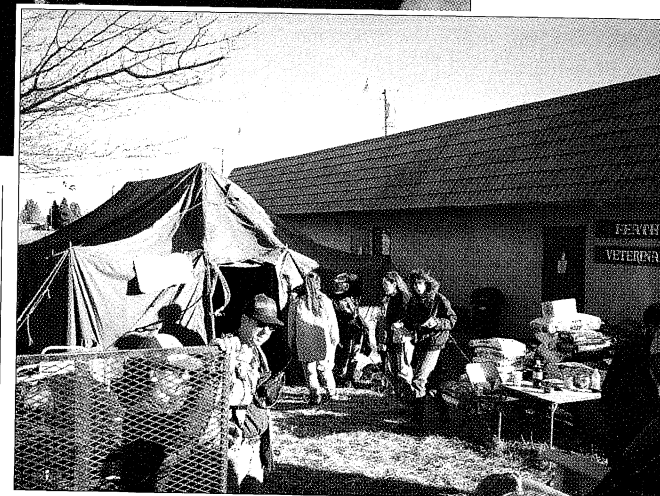
Following its efforts in Yuba County, the HSUS team moved on to San Joaquin County where Chad Sisneros, HSUS video projects assistant, and representatives from the American Humane Association joined them. Members of the team coordinated animal-rescue operations with San Joaquin County Animal Control authorities and volunteered to assist the City of Stockton Animal Shelter if it became necessary to evacuate the shelter. Fortunately local emergency managers in San Joaquin County had been able to provide as much as ten hours advance notice of flooding in some areas, which allowed residents just enough time to move many farm animals out of harm's way. Other animals weren't so lucky, including a herd of more than thirty cattle, many of whom perished in deep water when the presence of hazardous materials brought rescue efforts to a halt.

There were many successful efforts,

however, including the rescue of a cow stranded on the roof of a partially submerged mobile home surrounded by swirling, debris-filled water. San Joaquin County Animal Control's Keith Hulfman and Mr. Simmons arranged for a swift-water rescue team but at first could do no more for the frightened cow than toss hay on her wet rooftop. After two days a veterinarian tried to ap-

proach her, but she bolted directly into the water as he stepped on the roof. The boat crew then had to tow her to land. (She has since recovered and been reunited with her owners.)

En route to helping the cow, rescuers came across "Princess," a yellow lab mix who had been stranded for several days on the roof of a bar. According to Mr. Simmons, "Sensing rescue, Princess literally





jumped into Keith's arms as the boat approached. Her owners arrived just as she was being brought ashore. The entire family was overjoyed as they were reunited. It was quite a moving experience."

Following a levee break near the city of Tracy, southwest of Stockton, the team quickly helped a woman evacuate several dogs, a pot-bellied pig, and numerous exotic birds before her home was flooded. When a decision was made to evacuate the nearby City of Tracy Animal Shelter, animal-control officers from the city of Stockton and team members from The HSUS and the American Humane Association helped animal-protection officers evacuate and transport more than forty dogs and cats to the Alameda County Animal Control facility in Dublin. "Thankfully, the animal shelter in Tracy did not end up under water," said Mr. Sakach. "But the decision to move the animals was the smart one given the circumstances and threat of flooding. It's much easier and safer to move a large group of animals at that stage than to wait until you're waist deep in contaminated water." All of the animals rescued and evacuated were returned to Tracy within days. Those rescued from homes were soon reunited with their families.

Many horse owners and livestock producers hurried to move their animals to higher ground outside danger zones when the rains came. Others, unfortunately, were unprepared or caught by surprise. As Mr. Sakach noted, "It is important to remember the only certainty in a disaster is that there will always be uncertainties. It's very possible that many animals would have survived had horse and livestock owners planned ahead and acted sooner."

The HSUS strongly believes the first step necessary to protect people and their animals is to plan. We encourage livestock producers to develop disaster plans for evacuating and sheltering livestock that include all potential disaster scenarios. Livestock associations, neighbors, agricultural advisors, and local emergency managers should all cooperate in developing and implementing disaster plans.



Mr. Sakach (left) and Ken Johnson waded to shore after rescuing a cat from a flooded house. HSUS staff assisted with field rescue operations and helped to coordinate rescue efforts in Yuba County.

As members of the HSUS team returned home, Mr. Sakach reflected on their experiences during the Great Floods of '97. "Each of us was deeply affected by what we saw. As with so many past disasters, we witnessed instances of apathy and denial that led to avoidable suffering and loss of life. But we also saw countless acts of unselfishness and courage in the face of risk, and a tremendous outpouring of public sup-

port and concern. We might not be able to control nature's destructive forces, but we do have the ability to plan ahead. There must be a clear mandate in each community to include animals in disaster plans and make sure qualified people are in place to deal with both people and animals."

Said Mr. Ortega, "People shouldn't wait to be told what to do. It is up to everyone to plan ahead for the safety of the human—and animal—members of his/her own family." Epilogue: March came in like a lion in parts of Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, where raging floods brought mass destruction. The HSUS sent a team of five people to the stricken region to assess the damage and render assistance to animal victims. ■

HSUS West Coast Regional Director Eric Sakach, HSUS Disaster Services Manager Steve Dickstein, and HSUS Field Services Director Melissa Seide Rubin, Esq., contributed to this report.

## EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A PLAN

**B**efore disaster strikes, have a plan in place to address the care and control of animals. That's the message being delivered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in new guidelines to state and local emergency managers. In its *Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning* (SLG-101), FEMA for the first time issues specific recommendations pertaining to the welfare of animals.

The guide is designed to help emergency managers develop and maintain all-hazard emergency plans. FEMA recommends that state and local planning teams include members of the animal-protection community as they too have a role or interest in emergency response.

According to FEMA director James Lee Witt, "With more than 100 million pets in the United States, our agency recognizes the importance of including animal-welfare issues in the development of

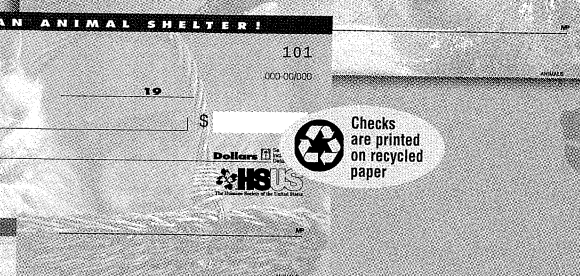
emergency plans." The HSUS agrees.

With the help of Dick Burns, formerly a FEMA public information officer, The HSUS was able to work with FEMA in developing its new recommendations, which express a commitment to *all* the victims of a disaster. According to Mr. Burns, "This is also the first time that animal-services personnel and organizations are considered part of the national disaster-planning process."

The HSUS believes that every individual, community, town, city, and state, and the nation as a whole, must have a plan to respond to disasters—and that animals must be a part of that plan! The FEMA guide should help establish the importance of animal-protection issues in overall disaster planning.

For additional information on disaster planning for animals, contact The HSUS's Disaster Services Program or your HSUS regional office. □

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THE WORK OF THE HSUS'S HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (HSI) ENCOMPASSES IMPORTANT PROJECTS ALL OVER THE WORLD. HERE IS A BRIEF REPORT ON THE MOST RECENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES.



**HSIAUSTRALIA**

## LAW HELPS MARINE LIFE

Since it was enacted in 1992, Australia's Endangered Species Protection Act (ESPA) has offered a new opportunity for animal-protection organizations and the Australian public to become integrally involved in conserving marine wildlife in one of the biggest fishing zones in the world. The ESPA is applicable in every one of the 10 million square miles in the Australian Ocean Territory, except where the six individual Australian states have recognized rights.

For many years activists in Australia have been campaigning for strong federal endangered-species laws, encouraged by the success of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), passed in 1973. Key activists helped bring the ESPA into force in 1992. The ESPA is not identical to the ESA. The U.S. Constitution provides the federal government far greater legal recourse in matters of land management than does the Australian Constitution, which gives the Australian government only limited authority. This distinction makes the ESA much more powerful than the ESPA in some circumstances. But at least in marine conservation, the ESPA has begun to have an impact.

The ESPA has provisions that significantly enhance the potential for protecting, and finally recovering, wildlife species that in many cases are virtually on the brink of extinction. As well as listing endangered species (including subspecies and distinct populations), the ESPA lists "endangered ecological communities" and "key threatening processes." An endangered ecological community could be anything from a

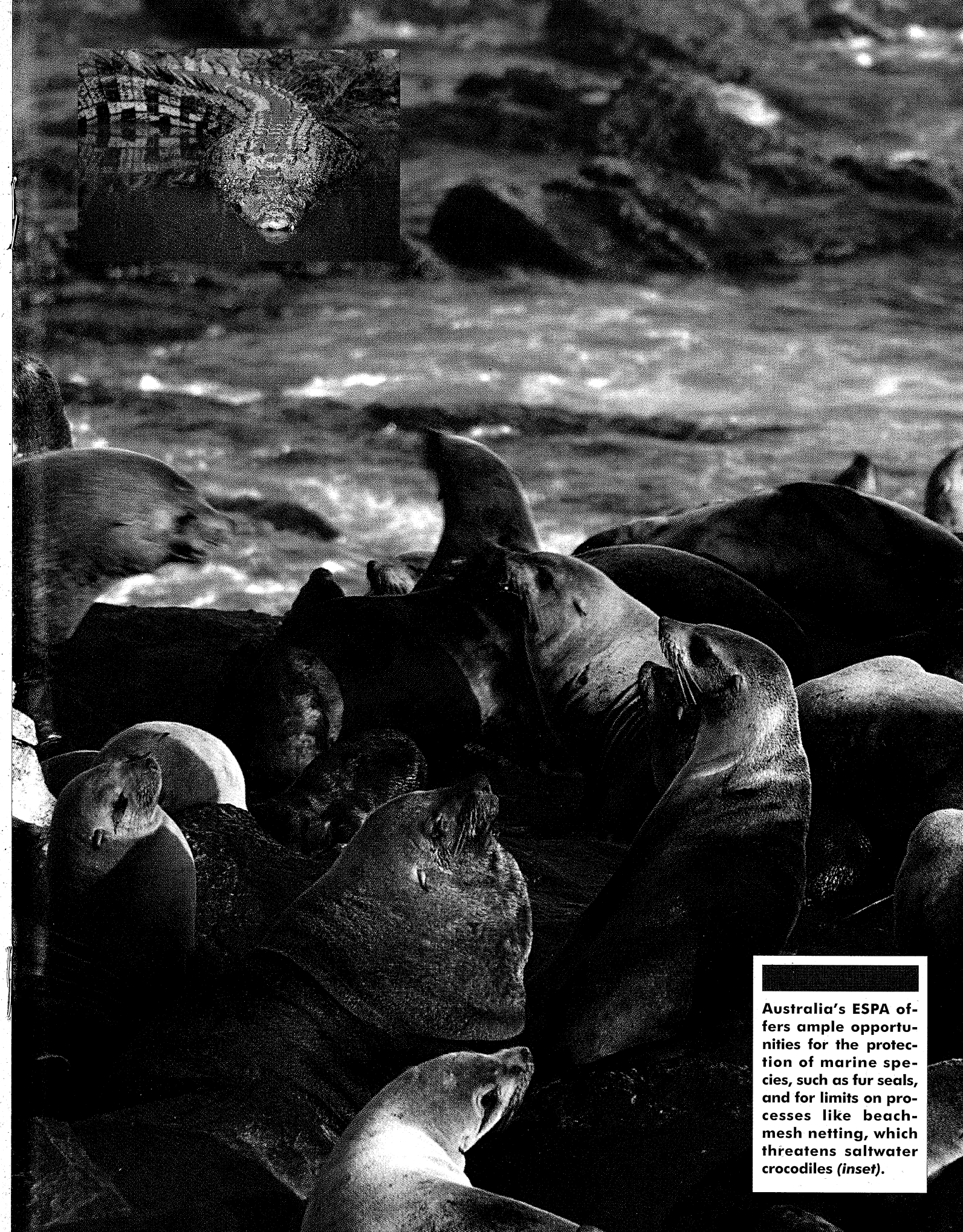
remnant piece of old-growth forest 60 miles square to a marine community of loggerhead and green sea turtles and grey nurse sharks 120 miles north of the capital, Sydney. (What exactly constitutes a "community," however, is a hotly debated scientific and legal question that is causing controversy.) A key threatening process is defined as a process that threatens at least two listed species or at least two listed communities, or that could cause native species or ecological communities that are not endangered to become endangered. An example is shrimp-trawling, which threatens many species of sea turtles.

In combination with specific laws protecting endangered species in the Australian states, the ESPA presents HSI with ample scope for seeking permanent protection for many marine animals in Australia's immense marine territory, including albatross, dolphins, dugongs, eastern gemfish, great white sharks, grey nurse sharks, orange roughy (a commercially valuable marine fish), penguins, saltwater crocodiles, seals, sea turtles, southern bluefin tuna, and whales.

HSI led successful efforts to protect the wandering albatross and other albatross species from destructive long-line fishing. In early 1994 we proposed listing the wandering albatross as an endangered species and longline fishing as a key threatening process under the ESPA (see the Winter 1996 *HSUS News*). Since then the Australian government has been required to amend its fisheries laws to take into account albatross conservation, and the incidental by-catch of albatross now appears to be decreasing.

THE ESPA IS WEAK IN COMPARISON TO THE ESA... BUT HSI BELIEVES THAT, AT LEAST IN MARINE CONSERVATION, THE ESPA HAS BEGUN TO HAVE SOME IMPACT IN AUSTRALIA.

WATT/TOM STACK & ASSOC.; INSET: DEGGNER/BRUCE COLEMAN, INC.



Australia's ESPA offers ample opportunities for the protection of marine species, such as fur seals, and for limits on processes like beach-mesh netting, which threatens saltwater crocodiles (inset).



HSI awaits an ESPA subcommittee's decision regarding the request to list gill-net fishing as a threatening process under the act. Gill nets drown air-breathing species, such as dugongs, dolphins, and sea turtles.



Nathan Evans, associate lecturer in environmental policy and law at Murdoch University in western Australia, observes: "The key threatening process listing . . . is the most insistent legal move in this direction in Australia. Moreover, the use of the endangered-species provisions with respect to albatross by-catch portends the ESPA's protective mandate being extended to other marine wildlife at risk from commercial fishing activities."

This is HSI's viewpoint as well. As is the case in the United States, members of the Australian public can nominate species for protective listing. Australians, however, can also nominate populations, communities, and the previously described key threatening processes. HSI has been taking full advantage of this public process. We are awaiting adjudications by the Endangered Species Scientific Subcommittee, established under the ESPA, which will determine if our proposals to list shrimp-trawling operations; gill-net fishing (as a threat to dolphins, dugongs, and sea turtles); beach-mesh or shark netting (as a threat to crocodiles, dolphins, dugongs, sea turtles, sharks, and

whales); and the release of ballast water from ships (as a threat to all marine life through the release of foreign biological organisms) will be accepted.

HSI also has species nominations pending for the dugong, flatback turtle, great white shark, grey nurse shark, school shark, southern bluefin tuna, and several other species of albatross. Many more nominations for threatened albatross, dolphins, marine fish, and sharks will follow. These efforts are complemented by nominations for species, communities, and key threatening processes under progressive state laws that protect endangered species. HSI joined other local nongovernmental organizations in a nomination that led to one encouraging state success—the listing of an endangered population of fairy penguins in New South Wales, just on the north side of Sydney's famous harbor.

The ESPA is weak in comparison to the ESA; it has minimal provisions for habitat protection and an inferior ability to require mandatory talks between competing interested parties. However, a clear strength of the ESPA is its requirement

that the nation develop a threat-abatement plan in response to the listing of a key threatening process. This means HSI can participate fully in the development and implementation of the threat-abatement plan for longline fishing, for instance.

Finally, these ground-breaking conservation activities under the ESPA give the Australian government a sound basis for seeking global action for the protection of marine animals threatened by fishing activities. Encouraging evidence of this came earlier this year when Australia's federal minister for the environment, Sen. Robert Hill, announced that Australia officially had proposed the listing of eleven species of endangered albatross on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (a global convention to which the United States is not a party), seeking international action for their protection. HSI intends to help ensure that the ESPA ultimately works for the recovery of all threatened marine animals, using the courts if necessary to require adoption of effective protective measures.—*Michael Kennedy, director, HSI (Australia)*



HSI EUROPE

## SUBSIDIZING THE INDEFENSIBLE

The European Union (EU) and the United States use subsidies, or payments designed to insulate farmers and ranchers from the ups and downs in agricultural prices, to help maintain a steady supply of agricultural products for consumers. Unfortunately, the EU's subsidy program also helps perpetuate the cruelty of bullfights and other festivals that exploit bulls.

Just two years ago, EU farmers and ranchers received full subsidy payments when they sold their young bulls to slaughter, but half of their allotted subsidy if they sold the bulls to bullrings. In February 1995 EU agricultural commissioner Franz Fischler attended a meeting of the EU's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. There Simon Murphy, Ph.D., a member of the European Parliament (MEP) from the United Kingdom (UK) who led the fight against bullfighting subsidies, urged a change in policy that would ensure that bull owners received *no* subsidies for

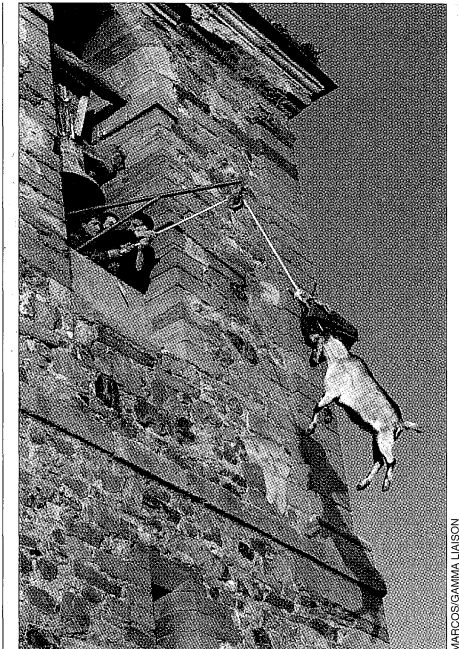
bulls sold to bullrings or festivals. Mr. Fischler, however, decided on a different policy. As a result EU farmers and ranchers currently receive the full \$168 subsidy for every ten-month-old bull they own, regardless of whether they sell the bull to slaughter or to the bullring.

For years the European Commission (the EU's bureaucracy) denied that its subsidies actually helped support bullfighting and festival events. But in Spain alone, forty thousand bulls are tortured to death in bullrings and festivals each year. According to Dr. Murphy, "Nine hundred facilities are registered for bullfighting. Everybody knows where the animals come from." He estimates that \$7 million in EU subsidy funds ends up supporting these blood sports annually.

Dr. Murphy tried again to end the subsidy by attaching two amendments to the 1996-97 EU common agricultural price policy. This policy sets agricultural-goods prices that determine the subsidies EU-member governments will pay for everything from beef cattle to cereals. Neither amendment, however, made it into the final policy.

Dr. Murphy is gearing up for the next policy review. He plans to "Europeanize the campaign" by enlisting the public and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) across Europe.

Dr. Murphy describes the HSI/World Society for the Protection of Animals anti-bullfighting campaign (see the Winter 1997 *HSUS News*) as beneficial. "The



In some festivals, goats are flung from church steeples (here, to be caught in a net below).

worst thing we can do is to ignore bullfighting. We must campaign to say 'this is not acceptable.'"

Gianni Tamino, an MEP from Italy, is also opposed to bullfighting and related subsidies. A year ago he proposed an amendment to eliminate the agricultural subsidy for bulls. It, too, failed.

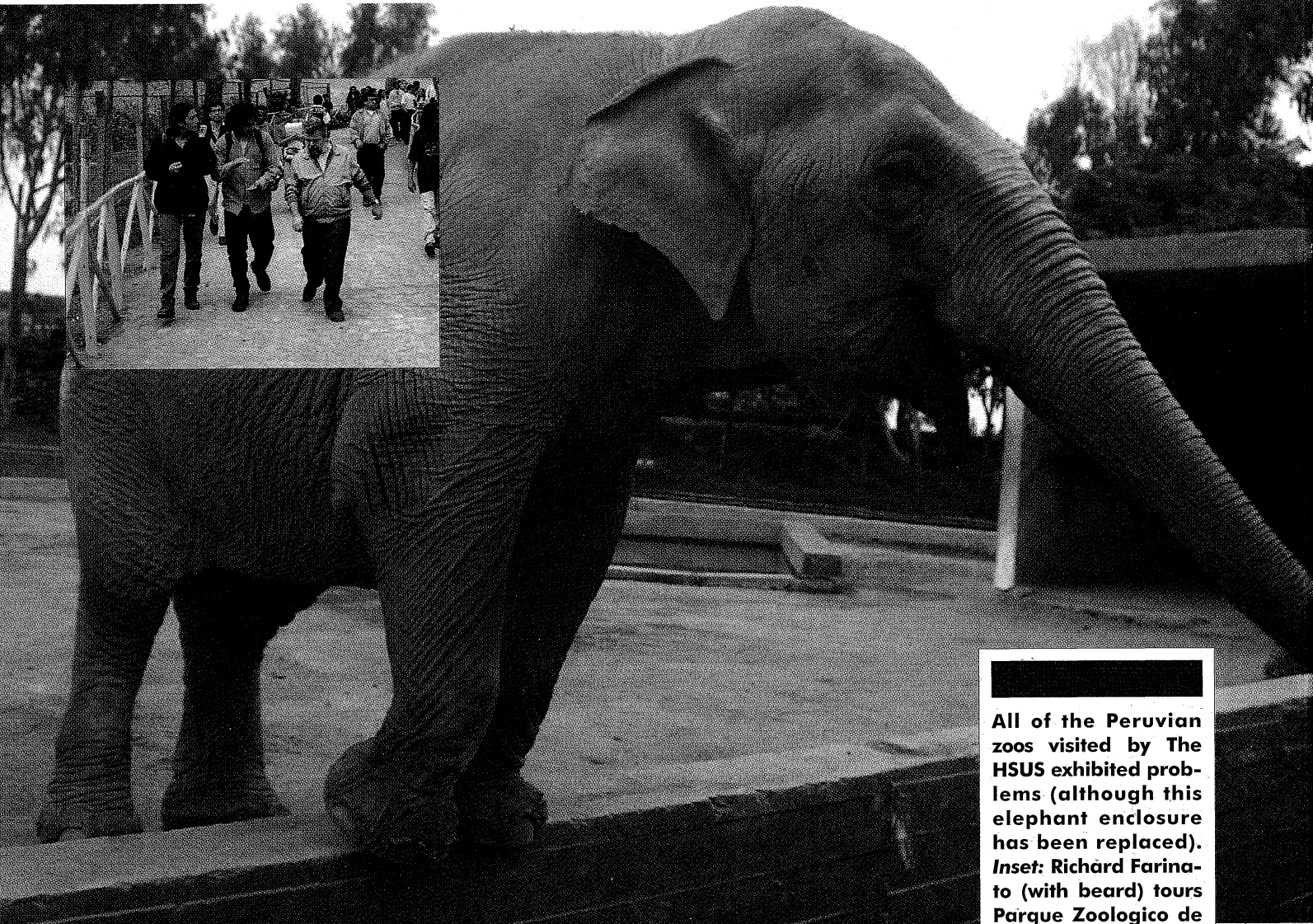
Carmen Diez de Rivera Icaza, an MEP member from Spain, wrote a report to the EU's animal-welfare intergroup in 1991 that documented bullfights and/or festivals that cruelly victimized bulls and other animals in all (then) twelve EU-member countries.

Ms. Diez de Rivera says that bullfighting, for many Spaniards, "is not cruelty; it is art." She warned that part of any NGO strategy to abolish the bull subsidy must be to approach the issue of cruelty in bullfights and festivals in the correct way. "If you attack people's culture, it will work against you."—*Betsy Dribben, Esq., director, HSI (Europe)*



In Pamplona, Spain, bulls run the streets in one of the many festivals involving animals held in the EU every year.





**All of the Peruvian zoos visited by The HSUS exhibited problems (although this elephant enclosure has been replaced). Inset: Richard Farinato (with beard) tours Parque Zoológico de las Leyendas.**



# STUDYING CAPTIVES

In cooperation with Amigos de los Animales, a Peruvian animal-protection group, HSUS/HSI presented a training course entitled "Wildlife in Captivity: Their Welfare and Management" in Lima in November. Pat Klein, D.V.M., HSUS wildlife veterinarian, and Richard Farinato, HSUS director, Captive Wildlife Protection Program, taught the four-day

course, which covered a broad range of issues relevant to the humane care of wildlife in captivity.

The course, the first of its kind ever held in Peru, was developed after a November 1995 fact-finding trip undertaken at the invitation of Amigos by Alvaro Posada-Salazar, director of HSI's Latin American office, and Mr. Farinato.

In the course of a week, Messrs. Posada-Salazar and Farinato visited three Peruvian zoos and met with the zoo directors and other managers.

Parque Zoológico de las Leyendas, in Lima; Parque Zoológico Quistacocha, located in a national park in the tropical rain forests outside Iquitos; and a small municipal zoo operated by the Universidad Nacional de Peru in mountainous Cuzco all showed, to varying degrees, problems or potential problems in basic animal sanitation, nutrition, and veterinary oversight. Unfortunately such problems are too common in zoos in Latin America (and elsewhere). However HSI and Amigos found that both the zoos and the Peruvian government's National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA) shared our interest in proper management of captive wildlife.

In the year between the fact-finding visit and the course, Amigos president Rosario Quintanilla de Zellweger and Mr. Posada-Salazar prepared materials and managed the local arrangements for the session. HSUS/HSI designed the course

to address the needs of animals and their caretakers, including nutrition, exhibition techniques, management plans, facility design, veterinary concerns, and humane philosophy as it applies to zoos. The course included materials, in Spanish, on the unsuitability of wild animals as pets and on current investigations into immun contraceptive birth control in zoo animals. INRENA generously provided printed materials for students and allowed the use of its auditorium for the course. INRENA experts addressed the laws and regulations pertaining to Peru's captive wildlife and discussed important conservation issues and efforts in Peru.

One hundred students attended, from all over Peru: 10 percent were veterinarians; 30 percent, veterinary students; 30 percent, park rangers, environmental police officers, and natural-resources-agency staff; and 10 percent, zoo personnel and state-registered wildlife breeders. The rest were citizens with an interest in wildlife welfare. A visit to the Lima zoo provided invaluable practical experience as the students put to use the humane concepts they had just learned. Certificates of participation were presented to all attendees by officiating Peruvian dignitaries.

Such training provides a valuable opportunity to expose people to new approaches to animal management and to foster new appreciation for the relationship between people and animals. With follow-up and support, HSUS/HSI hopes to encourage and cultivate humane attitudes in all individuals in daily contact with captive wild animals.

Because information, or access to available information, is limited in many countries, courses such as this one are as welcome as they are rare. With an audience that has a commitment to animals, courses exploring and promoting the concept of humane treatment can have a powerful impact that reaches far beyond the attendees themselves.

The success of this effort and all such programs depends upon the cooperation and enthusiasm of a strong, local, sponsoring organization. Without Amigos, HSUS/HSI's Lima course would have been impossible, and the organization's continued assistance in developing the humane ethic in Peru makes efforts there all the more likely to succeed.



## ALIGNING TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

The Maasai people are the principal community controlling land and wildlife in the African countries of Kenya and Tanzania. More than 90 percent of Kenya's wildlife lives on Maasai land. The Maasai, who overwhelmingly oppose sport and trophy hunting, have been alarmed by Kenya Wildlife Service proposals to open Kenyan land to trophy hunting (see the Winter 1997 *HSUS News*). Not only do these proposals threaten the Maasai and their largely pastoral relationship to the land and wildlife but they also threaten Kenya's tourism industry, which is based on "sun" safaris, or tours designed only for observing or photographing wildlife. Trophy hunters both kill wildlife and scare the surviving animals into hiding where they can be neither observed nor photographed. For these reasons, leaders of the Maasai community contacted representatives of HSUS/HSI.

On January 17 and 18, 1997, Paul G. Irwin, HSUS/HSI president, and John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS/HSI vice president for Wildlife and Habitat Protection, visited game ranches and community lands in Maasai Mara and other areas near the northern edge of Africa's famed Serengeti wildlife-migration corridor. These meetings marked a new alliance of the Maasai and HSUS/HSI. Discussions centered on the need for increased community education and on the desire of the Maasai to live compatibly and harmoniously with native wildlife. As an emerging modern culture, the Maasai are creating game ranches or reserves to reintroduce native species and to encourage tourism in Maasai lands.

The chairman of the Amboseli Cultural Manyatta, Daniel Ole Leturesh, and leaders of Maasai community-based organizations, including Koikai Oloitipiti, Olooltisatti Ole Kamuaro, Shadrack Mumo, Leonard Partimo, and Ntoros Baari, acted as hosts for the HSUS/HSI officials.



**Koikai Oloitipiti, Jean Irwin, Paul G. Irwin, Daniel Ole Leturesh, Olooltisatti Ole Kamuaro, and John W. Grandy, Ph.D., meet in Africa.**





Assisted by CUPA and other staff, Michael W. Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D., B.Vet. Med., M.R.C.V.S. (in glasses), implants a dog with immunocontraceptive (inset, left) and treats a sanctuary cow (inset, below).



# SANCTUARY IN THE SOUTH

Most people know that cows are sacred in India. The reverence for animals as religious symbols there, however, does not automatically translate into compassion for and humane treatment of living animals

(see the Winter 1996 *HSUS News*).

HSUS/HSI and New York-based Global Communications for Conservation Inc. (GCC) have established a program to help India's animals. This partnership program was founded with the encouragement of the Animal Welfare

Board of India and Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA), a nongovernmental organization in Bangalore. The Nilgiris Animal Welfare Society's (NAWS) animal sanctuary in southern India serves as the base of operations.

The fifty-two-acre sanctuary lies adjacent to the 250-square-mile Mudamalai Wildlife and Forest Preserve. The sanctuary cares for and maintains an assortment of farm animals, donkeys, and street dogs. It also enhances wildlife protection: improving the health and welfare of livestock and village dogs in surrounding communities reduces the likelihood that ravaging diseases of domestic animals will be transmitted to the wild creatures of the preserve.

Conflicts have arisen between wildlife and the exploding human and livestock populations of the Indian subcontinent. An increasing loss of habitat in the Tamil Nadu state, where NAWS is located, has led several herds of starving elephants to raid farmers' fields for food. Some ele-



phants have attacked, and even killed, people. NAWS has investigated farmers who, in response to elephant incursions, have electrocuted roaming elephants by connecting electrified field fences to the main village power lines at night.

The problems of habitat loss are compounded by the various deadly diseases that can be transmitted to wildlife by livestock and free-roaming dogs in rural areas. In 1996 an epidemic of hoof-and-mouth, or foot-and-mouth, disease decimated several Nilgiris Hills villages' livestock, and horrendous epidemics of canine distemper and rabies spread like wildfire through the villages. Every day at

the sanctuary is one crisis after another, with staff on call around the clock and living in conditions that are quite primitive.

Still, GCC's field director, Deanna L. Krantz, and I have made significant progress in making the sanctuary fully operational. A young farmer helps manage sanctuary operations, and in early 1997 a recently graduated Indian veterinarian-in-residence joined the staff.

Several acres of overgrazed and seriously degraded land have been plowed and reseeded to improve soil quality and provide nutritious fodder for the sanctuary's sixty resident donkeys, cattle, and ponies. The property has been fenced to contain the assembled, and once-neglected, herd. All the sanctuary's jack donkeys have been sterilized, as has its lone pony stallion, and all of its cattle have been treated for parasites. Sanctuary staff have begun working with government veterinary services to vaccinate local livestock against hoof-and-mouth disease. In an

emergency measure to prevent births of pups in and around the sanctuary, about ten local male and female dogs were implanted with a new canine immunocontraceptive developed by Peptech Company of Australia. It will render them sterile for twelve months.

Many village dogs suffer in deplorable conditions. Mange, starvation, rabies, and distemper are the cruel "natural" controls on their populations. Some fifty dogs and puppies from vil-

lages near the sanctuary have been treated for mange and other parasites. Since the beginning of 1997, more than three hundred village dogs have been vaccinated against rabies to stem the terrible epidemic. Now that the sanctuary has purchased a vehicle to provide service to relatively remote villages, the costs of improving the health and welfare of village dogs will be nominal.

Because most village dogs and pups who are fed by households subsist on a diet of rice and diluted cow's milk, rickets and other nutritional diseases are all too prevalent. The one baker in Masinagudi, the largest village in the region, has made

his oven available for baking highly nutritious, low-cost dog biscuits we formulated to supplement the dogs' inadequate diet. Sanctuary workers on field trips to village communities in the region dispense the biscuits to hungry dogs and leave a supply with shopkeepers, who give them to their local street dogs.

Government veterinary facilities lack equipment, adequate transportation, and even refrigeration for vaccines to control diseases like rabies and hoof-and-mouth. The sanctuary has obtained, thanks to EarthKind International, a solar-powered refrigerator to store much-needed vaccines (see the Winter 1997 *HSUS News*). Setting up a "cold chain" refrigeration system and safe storage for vaccines in a region where power failures are a daily event is one of many hurdles that have had to be overcome.

The way is beginning to open for program development and extension into more communities. The sanctuary will vaccinate dogs in some fifteen tribal villages and treat many for the twin scourges of mange and internal parasites. The rabies-vaccination-certification program will deter regional authorities from periodically sending out crews that indiscriminately snare and then kill village dogs by injecting Epsom salts into their hearts. After vaccination and treatment, the task of spaying and neutering additional dogs and conducting further field trials on the new canine immunocontraceptive will begin, with the support of volunteer veterinarians from the United States.

HSI's work with Professor Rama Kumar of the Veterinary Council of India to produce a post-graduate curriculum for veterinarians for diploma certification in animal welfare and veterinary bioethics has also been completed. We anticipate that this curriculum will be adopted in other countries so that the veterinary profession can assume a more effective role in animal welfare and protection.

HSI's continuing work in India will do much to alleviate and prevent some of the worst animal suffering imaginable. As our program expands, our presence will also help save one of the last and most beautiful wildlife preserves left in the country. (photo, opposite).—Michael W. Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D., B.Vet.Med., M.R.C.V.S., vice president, HSI



# MAKING OUR PEACE WITH CANADA GEESE

Does "Don't mind me," a Canada goose seems to say, as he moseys past a row of town houses. Residential geese do not migrate to remote breeding grounds, preferring to remain on a stretch of year-round in suburban neighborhoods.



*The law locks up both man and woman  
Who steals the goose from off the common  
But lets the greater felon loose  
Who steals the common from the goose.*

Edward Potts Cheyney

LONG BEFORE HUMAN BEINGS ARRIVED in what is now known as North America, Canada geese signaled the turn of the seasons by flying in precise formations overhead.

Over the last thirty years, however, the Canada goose's migration has been disrupted—perhaps even irrevocably changed—by humans. In some places, Canada geese have come to be regarded by a few vocal

BY JOHN W. GRANDY, PH.D., AND  
JOHN HADIDIAN, PH.D.





STANLEY/STONY STONE IMAGES

people as nuisances or pests. The result has been an alarming trend toward rounding up year-round “residential” geese during early summer, when the adults are molting and cannot fly, and taking them to slaughter. The HSUS challenges such a needless, brutal practice.

For millennia native peoples and Canada geese coexisted successfully. Geese were hunted for subsistence but not killed in numbers great enough to threaten the existence of the species. European colonists, however, brought with them to the New World a market economy that demanded products, an improved technology that made mass killing feasible, and a burgeoning human population that saw no harm in destroying natural resources it assumed were inexhaustible. By 1900 many species of wildlife had disappeared altogether, and many more had been driven to the brink of extinction. Some relief for bird species came with the passage in 1918 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which protected most species of birds from exploitation. Nonetheless many populations of birds have been slow to recover in the intervening eighty years.

As late as the 1950s, the giant Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) was thought to be extinct. In 1962, however, biologists confirmed that some individuals remained near Rochester, Minnesota. The discovery led to a concerted effort by many states to restore goose numbers (although less out of a motive to repair damaged biological communities than to establish a huntable population). Geese were rounded up during their annual molt and driven into pens as easily as domestic animals. The geese were then shipped, interstate and intrastate, to establish new breeding populations. Within thirty years the giant Canada goose went from near-extinction to abundance—even, according to some, overabundance. In 1995, and increasingly in 1996, states first began to claim they had run out of places where relocated geese would be welcome and then began to round up their “excess” geese for slaughter. Michigan state officials captured more than four thousand birds, about five hundred of which were sent to slaughter. The remainder were relocated to hunting areas within the state. Minnesota officials also instituted a slaughter plan.

The HSUS is initiating a national campaign to oppose roundup and slaughter. Humane alternatives have not been considered seriously or attempted in many areas where geese have already been slaughtered or where roundups are being planned. Claims of threats to public health and safety, used by state wildlife agencies to justify

their slaughter programs, are unproven and often nonsensical.

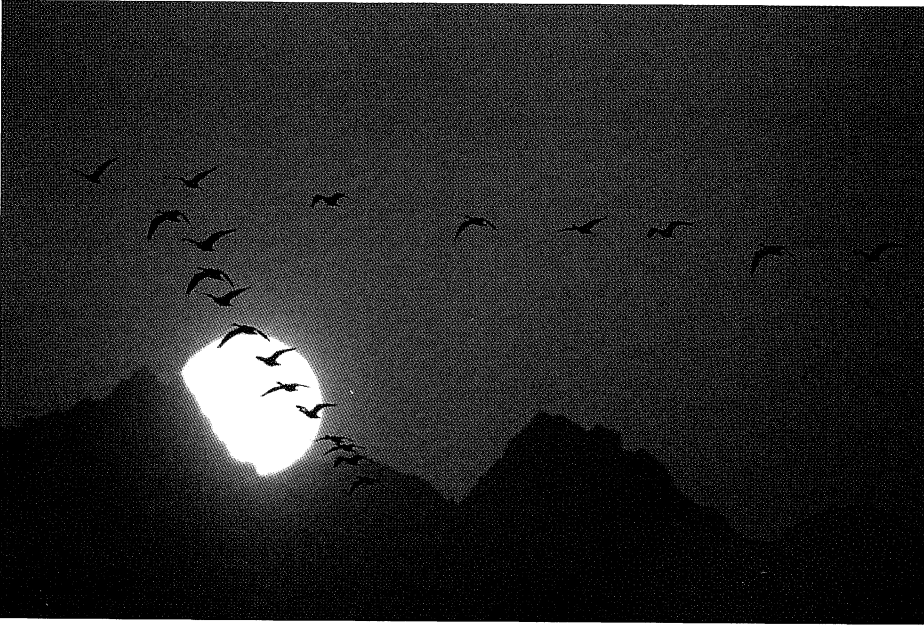
#### “RESIDENTIAL” GEESE

“RESIDENTIAL” CANADA GEESE DO NOT MIGRATE to arctic breeding grounds, preferring to remain year-round in continental U.S. urban and suburban neighborhoods. Why migration patterns have been lost is not yet clear. Some populations of giant Canada geese may never have been strong migrants; others have lost their migratory urge. Geese apparently must be taught migratory routes by other geese. They remember their place of birth and tend to return there to breed and raise their own young. But many geese have been trapped

to stay. Unlike species of waterfowl that eat aquatic vegetation or aquatic animals, Canada geese prefer to graze on land. Fast growing grass that is cut frequently stays succulent and makes an ideal forage for them. But because geese are flightless for long periods in summer and must raise flightless goslings for even longer periods, they are dependent on adjacent ponds or lakes that provide a safe refuge from predators.

#### “PROBLEM” GEESE

SOME HUMAN RESIDENTS IN MANY LOCALES—a small, but vocal, minority—feel there are “too many” Canada geese in their neighborhoods. Some people simply don’t like



WARDEN/STONY STONE IMAGES

For centuries people have thrilled to the sight of Canada geese heading south in the fall and returning north in the spring to the place they were born. *Opposite:* Canada geese display strong family ties, and their devotion to their young is remarkable. Roundups that separate adults from their goslings are traumatic; past roundups may have broken some goose populations’ migratory tradition.

and moved over the past thirty years, and trapped goslings were often separated from adults when relocated. This separation could have broken the migratory tradition. Many Canada geese also were kept in captive flocks to serve as live decoys, tethered along the waterways followed by migrating geese to entice the migrators into shotgun range in hunting season. When released from captivity, decoy geese would have had no knowledge of migratory routes and would have had no alternative but to settle in areas that were at least familiar to them.

Whatever initially prompted Canada geese to remain in one location year-round, the lush green lawns surrounding ponds in parks, residential subdivisions, corporate centers, and golf courses encouraged them

the looks of geese foraging on lawns or resting on ponds in the numbers that they sometimes attain. How many geese are “too many,” of course, is completely subjective and has far more to do with human values and tolerances than it does with the geese’s health or safety.

One potentially legitimate issue—concern that Canada geese might contribute to bacterial contamination of ponds and reservoirs—has been raised repeatedly in discussions on goose populations, as if contamination necessarily occurs anywhere geese congregate. In fact, bacterial contamination in ponds and reservoirs is far more often attributable to problems with human sanitation than to problems arising from any wild animals. The HSUS has yet to find any study that demonstrates



a public-health threat posed by geese. Good science and monitoring have shown that geese do not contribute in any significant way to elevated levels of potentially harmful bacterial contamination of water. On the contrary, studies have shown that geese often are exposed to pre-existing bacterial contamination in ponds already polluted by surface runoff. Any modest contribution from geese is easily mitigated by nonlethal methods of control, such as reducing the attractiveness of municipal water-supply sites.

Some people suggest that goose populations are damaging ecosystems. This claim is utterly without basis. No study of the role of geese in urban or suburban ecosystems has ever been conducted.

The principal valid complaint against Canada geese is that they defecate on lawns, golf courses, corporate grounds, and playing fields. This complaint is used to justify rounding up and destroying thousands of them annually.

#### GOOSE ROUNDUPS

IN 1996 NEW YORK AND MICHIGAN INITIATED experimental roundup programs, and Minnesota came out with its own full-blown program, all using the same procedures previously perfected in wildlife-agency programs designed to relocate or establish Canada-goose populations. The difference is that the 1996 programs are designed to capture geese for slaughter. Flocks of molting geese are herded from the water by boat and into pens on shore, where the adults are separated from the goslings. This forcible separation of parents from young during roundups is undoubtedly traumatic to the birds. Geese display strong family ties and their protectiveness of and devotion to their young are obvious and remarkable. After separation the goslings may be shipped hundreds of miles to wildlife refuges and left to fend for themselves without parental care. Survivors of the difficult journey will easily fall victim to predators or to hunters if they last until fall. Finally, for the crime of soiling lawns, the adults are slaughtered fully conscious and aware, hanging by their feet from a slaughter plant's conveyor belt, their throats slit as they move along the processing line.

Minnesota may have slaughtered more than two thousand Canada geese in 1996. At least three hundred geese were rounded up and sent to slaughter in one New York community, where the slaughtered birds were supposedly to be donated to food banks. The plan backfired, however, when testing by the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that the goose meat was contaminated by high levels of lead, feces, and feathers. The community tried to peddle the meat to a local zoo, only to have it refused there as well.

#### HUMANE SOLUTIONS

CANADA GEESE SHOULD NOT BE KILLED BECAUSE an intolerant few feel that there are "too many" of them. Resolving a conflict with geese—or any other wild species—requires addressing the specifics of the situation. Reducing entire populations resolves nothing.

**STOP FEEDINGS.** The HSUS is aware of the complex and controversial issues associated with feeding wildlife, and we realize that there is no simple or universal answer

**MANAGE HABITATS.** As in almost any human/wildlife conflict, management of habitat is critical to establishing a long-lasting and environmentally responsible solution. Canada geese provide an excellent example of a wildlife species whose behavior can be fairly easily modified by managing the landscape. They not only prefer to walk between water and land but also must be able to walk to grazing areas when molting or escorting goslings. Allowing grass and shrubs to grow as little as eighteen inches high in a ten foot band around a pond can act as a deterrent to geese as it will impede their access to grazing and block their view of predators.

There are side benefits to this kind of



Signs exhorting, "Please don't feed the wildlife," are directed at people who supplement wild creatures' natural food supplies. Good Samaritans—and wildlife officials—can encourage so many Canada geese to settle in a residential area that less tolerant neighbors want to roll up the welcome mat and open up the slaughterhouse. *Opposite:* Geese are rounded up on a rural road in Virginia.

to the question of whether or not it is humane to feed wild animals. However, where geese are perceived to be a problem, and supplemental feeding encourages a high concentration of them year-round, then responsible plans to limit and eventually eliminate their feeding are necessary. Except in unusual circumstances, Canada geese should not be fed by neighbors or others.

This sanction does not apply only to private citizens. For decades, state and federal wildlife managers have fed wildlife on a massive scale, by planting crops to encourage an abundance of certain species. Private citizens and wildlife managers must begin to think about avoiding overpopulation in concentrated areas and stop funding programs that ultimately lead to the slaughter of Canada geese.

landscape alteration as well. It reduces mowing, filters the runoff of fertilizers and herbicides from lawn surfaces, increases habitat for other wildlife species such as songbirds, and has an aesthetic appeal to many that is more satisfying than the homogeneous and neatly trimmed lawn run down to water's edge.

Where such changes are not acceptable, temporary measures can be used. Fencing acts as a sufficient barrier, and while it lacks many of the side benefits of habitat changes, it can be put out before nesting season to discourage geese and then removed when nesting has begun elsewhere. **DIVERT ARRIVALS.** A variety of techniques can be used to divert or scare Canada geese and other waterfowl away from areas where they are unwelcome. Scare-



crows and effigies, homemade plastic flags, radio-controlled model boats, beach balls, eyespot balloons, and Mylar™ tape can effectively repel birds. More serious harassment, or hazing, can be effective when applied at the right time and practiced consistently. Such harassment ranges from people simply shooing geese away whenever they are out of the water to intense, full-time use of pyrotechnics (sophisticated firecrackers, really) and/or special human/dog teams. The natural herding instinct of breeds such as border collies can be put to use to keep geese continually in the water, which will so frustrate them that they fly away and abandon a site.

**REPEL FLOCKS.** A chemical called methyl anthranilate has been approved recently as an important and useful chemical repellent

for waterfowl and other bird species. This grape-flavored chemical, used in candies and soft drinks, can be applied to land or water. It is highly noxious to birds and has been used with success in repelling Canada geese from lawns and ponds.

Canada geese are intelligent birds who learn quickly and remember what they learn. The greatest effectiveness in goose-control is usually achieved when a combination of humane techniques is used. Modify the habitat and erect diversions, for instance, or change the placement of scarecrows and balloons. With a little consistency in human behavior, there is every reason to assume that geese will abide by local rules. If all else fails, rendering eggs unviable, a process known as addling, remains as the next-to-the-last resort. Addling has



A Michigan golf course employs trained dogs to chase geese from its fairways. Such benign harassment discourages arriving geese and causes current residents to move elsewhere.

been little pursued, but The HSUS believes it is far more humane than slaughtering adult geese.

• • •

CITIZENS GROUPS, HOME-OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, and local officials frequently are unaware that there are effective humane alternatives to resolving lethally conflicts with Canada geese. The complaints and demands of a vocal, intolerant few move the process of resolving conflicts toward a lethal end before those who believe that killing is wrong can prove their case. Numerous success stories demonstrate that humane controls have been effective and have led to permanent solutions to conflicts. Humane efforts require planning and cooperation, and they take time, but they are well worth it. (The HSUS's book *Wild Neighbors* includes information on how to resolve conflicts with waterfowl humanely. Special members' price is \$11.95, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.)

The summer of 1997 will be critical—a potentially devastating time for the Canada geese who are already being earmarked for destruction and a chilling time for the vast majority of the public that does not want geese slaughtered. Now is the time to stop the unnecessary killing and to stop treating wild geese as one more expendable commodity. Anyone who has ever thrilled at the sight of Canada geese overhead knows that geese deserve our respect and compassion. ■

*John W. Grandy, Ph.D., is HSUS vice president, Wildlife and Habitat Protection.*

*John Hadidian, Ph.D., is HSUS director, Urban/Suburban Wildlife Protection Program.*



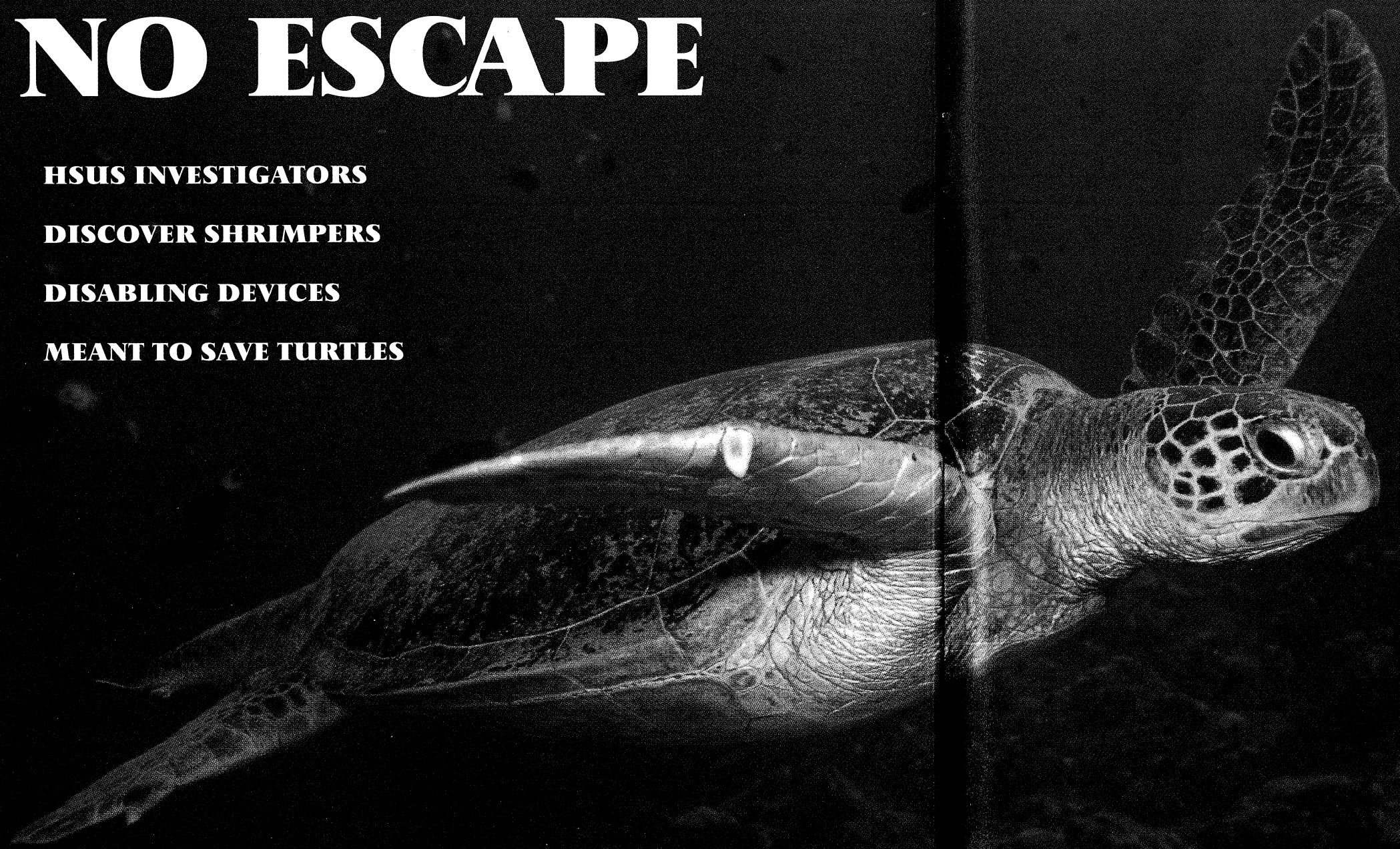
# NO ESCAPE

**HSUS INVESTIGATORS**

**DISCOVER SHRIMPERS**

**DISABLING DEVICES**

**MEANT TO SAVE TURTLES**



**GREEN SEA TURTLES ARE**

**"THREATENED" UNDER THE ESA.**

**INSET: HSUS INVESTIGATORS**

**DOCUMENTED STRANDINGS,**

**SUCH AS THAT OF THIS TAGGED**

**KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE.**

**T**HE HSUS HAS GROWN ALARMED by the number of dead sea turtles washing ashore, or stranding, on Gulf of Mexico beaches. HSUS investigators, working with Earth Island Institute's Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP), traveled repeatedly to Texas and the Gulf from July through November 1996 to document strandings and investigate the suspected disabling of federally required turtle excluder devices (TEDs). TEDs are grids sewn into shrimp nets to guide air-breathing sea turtles out "escape hatches." When used



COMSTOCK INSET: HSUS





**A CIRCULAR, METAL TED APPARATUS HAS BEEN TIED SHUT; INSET: A TRAWLER HAULS TWO NETS WITH TEDS. THE MOST EFFECTIVE TEDS ALLOW 97 PERCENT OF TURTLES CAPTURED IN SHRIMP NETS TO ESCAPE.**

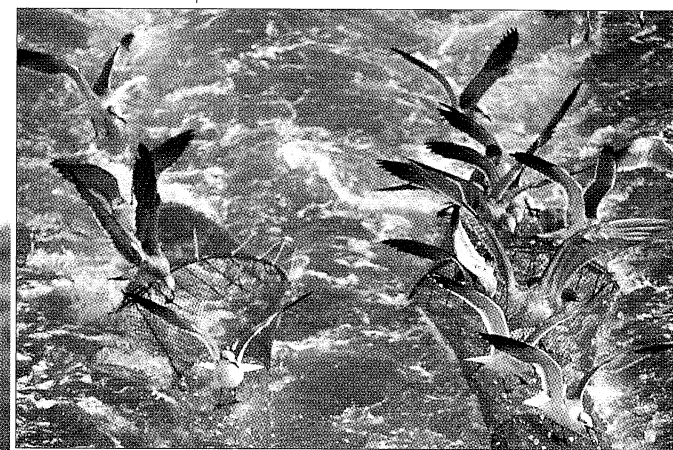
properly, they prevent sea turtles from drowning in shrimp nets. The HSUS wanted to investigate the degree to which shrimp trawlers comply with the TED requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Since 1989 Gulf shrimp trawlers have been required to use TEDs to protect sea turtles, all U.S. species of which are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Before federal regulations began requiring TEDs, tens of thousands of sea turtles needlessly suffered and drowned each year after being netted by shrimp trawlers. The shrimp industry has had a devastating

effect on the desperately endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle, in particular. Available information shows that shrimp-trawling activity in the Gulf has almost tripled since 1950, and since 1947 the total number of nesting female Kemp's ridleys has declined drastically. A 1947 census counted an estimated forty-two thousand Kemp's ridleys coming ashore to nest in one day; the total nesting female population now is an estimated one thousand to fifteen hundred. Even with TEDs in use, data show a marked increase in Gulf strandings as shrimping gets underway, with a dramatic drop in mortality when

shrimping ends.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the agency charged with protecting sea turtles, and the U.S. Coast Guard have asserted for two years that nearly 100 percent of shrimp trawlers are in compliance with TED regulations. Shrimpers claim that any noncompliance is due to "technical violations," or inadvertent or unintentional problems, such as improperly installed TEDs or equipment failure. In a July 12, 1996, *Galveston Daily News* article, the Coast Guard claimed a 97 percent compliance rate for 1995; in an October 1996 taped interview, a Coast Guard official stat-



merous violations of TED regulations during undercover operations, demonstrating that the U.S. government's statistics of near-total cooperation by shrimpers are probably wrong.

HSUS investigators traveled to five Texas ports. Equipped with cameras, they were able to approach and examine the TEDs of 32 vessels. The TEDs of other boats were not clearly visible so no absolute determination could be made, but of the 32 vessels our investigators examined, 13 (41 percent) had tied TEDs. Such apparent violations of federal law suggest that NMFS enforcement procedures are inadequate and that shrimpers may ignore federal law without fear of prosecution.

The relationship between NMFS enforcement and strandings cannot be overemphasized. Available information

## **"ONE BOAT HAD AT LEAST TEN RADIOS TO MONITOR AGENCIES' [OPERATIONS]," INVESTIGATORS SAID.**

ed that compliance with TED regulations was 99 percent. Yet persistent rumors maintain that shrimpers sew shut or tie the flap of net that ordinarily allows sea turtles to escape and that the shrimpers are able to undo the tie from the deck of the vessel to avoid detection by law enforcement. Both the NMFS and the Coast Guard have documented TEDs intentionally disabled in this manner, yet both agencies claim these deliberate actions represent only a small percentage of the total violations cited.

According to NMFS officials, stranding numbers for 1996 exceed those for 1995, and other sources indicate that intentional mutilations of sea turtles are on the increase. These facts suggest that the shrimp industry continues to adversely affect the survival and recovery of these endangered creatures. HSUS investigators found nu-

shows that strandings increase when NMFS enforcement is diverted away from the Gulf shrimp fishery and that strandings decrease significantly during periods of heavy NMFS enforcement activity. Yet increased enforcement—with both more Coast Guard vessels and more frequent patrols—would not alone be enough to discourage shrimpers from continuing to break the law. The NMFS must increase its undercover operations and stop its present practice of announcing publicly when it will step up enforcement. "Some of the [shrimpers] monitor everything—the Coast Guard, the DEA [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration]. . . . It wouldn't matter what was coming; those guys know about it and can untie their TEDs in a matter of minutes," stated an HSUS investigator.

Documented strandings account for only a small fraction of the turtles that die, since many turtles sink or wash up in inaccessible areas where they are never found. Of the four dead turtles HSUS investigators observed along about sixty miles of Texas coastline, two had drowned, according to marine-animal experts who examined the bodies. The other two appeared to have suffered, and may have died from, puncture wounds and blunt trauma to the head. All four were most likely caught in shrimp nets. Stranding reports from the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network for Padre Island National Seashore in Texas also document intentional mutilations. The reports indicate that many turtles have been decapitated; some have been shot; some have had deep straight-edged cuts at the base of one or more flippers. Some turtles were missing a whole flipper—a flipper that might have been carrying a NMFS marking tag. Investigators, agency officials, and conservationists have surmised these mutilations are meant to send a message to the government and environmentalists.

HSUS investigators uncovered evidence to support this theory. One shrimper claimed he not only tied his TEDs shut but also mutilated and killed sea turtles. He described how he would deliberately violate the TED regulations once he was offshore. "Who's going to [expletive] with me?" he asked. When asked whether he caught many turtles, he replied, "Where I go, yeah . . . I get 'em . . . from everywhere, with big [NMFS marking] tags." The shrimper ad-



**"AS A RESULT OF [THE HSUS]  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT, I AM REVIEWING  
OUR TED-ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM."**

**JOHN W. GRANDY, PH.D., RE-  
PORTS, "WE HAVE ASKED THE  
NMFS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH  
US TO IMPLEMENT MORE MEA-  
SURES THAT WILL BETTER PRO-  
TECT SEA TURTLES" (BELOW).**



mitted that he catches turtles and "cut[s] their [expletive] head[s] off."

Publicly, Gulf shrimpers emphatically assert that they are overburdened with government regulations and enforcement and that they simply are not responsible for the high level of sea-turtle strandings that occur every year. They point to other factors, noting the great reduction in turtle-nesting habitat, disruptive dredging of the sea bottom, oil spills, and the turtles' decidedly unhealthy custom of mistaking plastic garbage for food. (All, indeed, take their toll on these ancient species.) Since 1989 shrimpers and industry spokespeople have repeatedly claimed to be "resigned" to using TEDs and have insisted that they use TEDs properly and consistently. They

maintain that "TEDs are ruining their livelihoods," and that the industry is "hurting because of TED regulations." Shrimpers have claimed they lose 20 percent of their catch when the devices are in place—a figure disputed by both the U.S. government and environmentalists.\* They continue to lobby Congress to reverse the rules requiring TEDs by introducing amendments to the ESA that would eliminate the need for shrimpers to reduce the

killing of sea turtles. Such resistance to TEDs makes it difficult, if not impossible, to believe that close to 100 percent of shrimp trawlers comply with the law.

For several years conservation and animal-protection groups have expressed frustration at what they consider to be the refusal of the NMFS and the shrimping industry to recognize the seriousness of the TED problem and to take adequate, immediate measures to correct it. The results of this investigation, we hope, will ensure that history does not repeat itself this year.

In December 1996 the NMFS finally amended the regulations protecting sea turtles. Many of the amendments—such as one requiring TEDs on smaller nets used to test water for shrimp—are supported by conservation groups, including The HSUS, STRP, the Center for Marine Conservation, and others. However, we believe more can be done.

On February 28, 1997, John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS vice president for Wildlife

and Habitat Protection, and Richard W. Swain Jr., HSUS vice president for Investigations, met with Rolland A. Schmitt, assistant administrator for Fisheries; Steven C. Springer, special agent in charge, Enforcement Programs Division; and Barbara Schroeder, national sea turtle coordinator, all with the NMFS, to present a report and video detailing our investigative findings.

The HSUS has asked the NMFS to abolish a year-long "phase-in" period for eliminating ineffectual TEDs. We have requested that it reschedule regional shrimp seasons so that seasons open simultaneously in different regions. Such a change would prevent trawlers from concentrating in one open region—and capturing the same turtle many times—before moving on to the next open region (a practice called pulse fishing). We would like the NMFS to close affected fisheries when strandings reach a certain level; create protected sea-turtle-migration corridors and foraging areas where shrimp trawling is not permitted; limit the number of vessels in the Gulf shrimp-trawling fleet; and place restrictions on shrimp-net size. We would like to see increased federal funding for NMFS enforcement, and criminal, not civil, charges filed against shrimpers caught deliberately violating TED regulations.

Subsequent to the February meeting, The HSUS received a letter from Mr. Schmitt stating, "As a result of [the HSUS] investigative report, I am reviewing our TED-enforcement program based on your recommendations. I fully agree that we need more enforcement resources in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as other parts of the nation and am considering strategies for increasing the effectiveness of our efforts."

The NMFS must free itself from the stranglehold of the shrimp-trawling industry. Our investigation shows that almost half of the shrimp trawlers that HSUS investigators were able to observe closely enough to inspect carried disabled TEDs. Write or call Rolland A. Schmitt, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Room 14555, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2239, to urge the NMFS to increase enforcement of TED regulations and take immediate measures to ensure the greatest possible protection for these ancient and graceful creatures. ■



## PERU'S RICH DIVERSITY

**A**cre for acre, Peru may be the richest land in the world. With its vast and wondrous biological diversity, it is a land of superlatives, resplendent with the living artworks of evolution. Peru has more species of butterflies than any other country, one-sixth of all parrots in the world, and 20 percent of the world's birds. Thirteen hundred species of orchids, at least 20,000 species of moth, and a host of rare and endangered mammals such as giant river otters, spectacled bears, and Titi monkeys all make Peru their home. (Titi monkeys are a remark-

able species: they sleep huddled in troops, their tails entangled so that they can silently warn one another of dangers in the night.)

Two of Peru's largest protected areas, Manu Biosphere Reserve and Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone, contain the world's highest recorded diversities of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fishes, vascular plants, trees, moths, and invertebrates. Peru also has a high number of endemic species: 35 mammal, 90 bird, 50 fish, 69 reptile, and 28 amphibian species are all unique to Peru's territory. On a single hectare, or about two



**Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, is on the altiplano, or high plain, one of Peru's many distinct life zones, or habitats.**

EARTHKIND,  
THE GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ARM OF THE  
HSUS, WORKS  
TO PROTECT  
BIODIVERSITY AND  
ENDANGERED  
ECOSYSTEMS  
AND PROMOTE  
HUMANE,  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT.

\*Depending on the TED model used, U.S. government studies report a range of shrimp loss from 1.5–10 percent with a 10–60 percent reduction in by-catch—unwanted fish and other marine creatures that must be thrown back into the ocean, dead or dying.



## EARTHKIND IN ACTION

### PRESERVING "TIERRA RICA" FOR THE FUTURE

Several centuries ago the city of Potosi in Bolivia supported the Spanish Empire with vast silver deposits in the fabled mountain Cerro Rico. The city's glory and power vanished as the silver reserve was squandered, denuding the mountain and leaving its people impoverished. In a December 1996 speech to the Bolivian Sustainable Development Summit, attended by representatives from thirty-four countries, U.S. Vice President Al Gore invoked the memory of Cerro Rico as a symbol of unsustainable development. "Today a new understanding is emerging in our hemisphere of the fragility and the true value of Earth's gifts. We are learning from our mistakes. We are reclaiming our clean water and air and land. We are protecting endangered species. In our country, at long last, we can once again look up into the mountains and see condors soaring in skies once bare of their majesty. And, like the condor, in these southern skies pierced by the Cerro Rico, we see this new awareness taking

flight, soaring above this place where we have been put by God, this place which is our *tierra rica* [rich land]. We gather as brothers and sisters in a new hemisphere, and this is our most solemn pledge: human dignity, the war against poverty, and the future of our planet require that this *tierra rica* not become a Cerro Rico. These rich lands will not pass away."

The goal of sustainable development—meeting the needs of the present without reducing the options of future generations—is a goal all nations are beginning to agree upon, but it will take more than national governments to achieve it. The participation of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in policy formulation is absolutely essential to the effort, and with their recent increase in number, more likely than ever.

"When EarthKind created its Inter-American Council (IAC), we were hopeful that we could make a significant contribution to preserving the integrity of the ecological systems in this hemisphere," noted John A. Hoyt, president of EarthKind. "EarthKind's IAC has become a (continued on page 44)

and a half acres, scientists have recorded 300 tree species, the highest rate of heterogeneity on Earth.

This complexity and the sheer abundance of wildlife communities in Peru are the result of Peru's extraordinary variety of habitats. Though it covers less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the Earth's land mass, Peru harbors 84 of the 101 classified life zones, or distinct habitats, used to describe the planet's environmental areas. Western Peru is arid, with sparse vegetation and a few patches of dry tropical forest. Its coastal waters are influenced by the Peruvian Current, which brings cold, antarctic waters north and harbors huge numbers of krill, fish, and sea lions.

The midrange of the Andes, the world's second largest mountain range, runs down the spine of the country cutting it into two climates. As opposed to the arid west, eastern Peru is constantly swept with the warm, humid winds of the Amazon. From the high Andean peaks and cloud forests, the land to the east slopes into the *selva*, the verdant tropical Amazon Basin with its high canopy of densely packed trees. As author Rex Govorchin has pointed out, "Below this canopy, a world exists few people have seen and fewer understand."

Saving animals and maintaining the integrity of the 84 life zones in Peru is exactly what Alejandro Camino is trying to do. He is the coordinator of Profonanpe, a Peruvian organization set up by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is jointly managed by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

EarthKind's Inter-American Council is working with Profonanpe to strengthen its capacity to preserve Peru's awesome array of species and habitats.\* One way the GEF has sought to do this is through a trust fund for biodiversity. The fund, managed by Profonanpe, is an important model for long-term financing of environmental protection. Mr. Camino and his Profonanpe team negotiate debt-for-nature swaps with other countries to extend the impact of the trust fund and, in addition, set priorities among projects presented by the environmental groups of Peru.

"We welcome and appreciate major international environmental organizations



An example of one of Peru's remarkable 1,300 orchid species blooms in the rain forest.

like EarthKind that are joining hands with us in helping to protect the animals and environment of one of the world's richest reservoirs of biodiversity: Peru. The Profonanpe/EarthKind partnership is a significant step forward and may prove to be a model for other endeavors of this kind elsewhere," observed the Honorable Ricardo V. Luna, Peruvian ambassador to the United States.

John A. Hoyt, president of EarthKind, echoes those sentiments: "The GEF is one of the most hopeful realities in the world today when it comes to doing serious work to safeguard the planet's biodiversity. It is profoundly important for Profonanpe to succeed, both for the sake of the animals and ecosystems of Peru and because its success will lead to its replication in other developing countries. EarthKind has developed a close working relationship with Profonanpe and I hope and expect that, together, we can be partners in preserving the precious life-communities of Peru." —Jan A. Harke, Esq., executive director, EarthKind (USA)

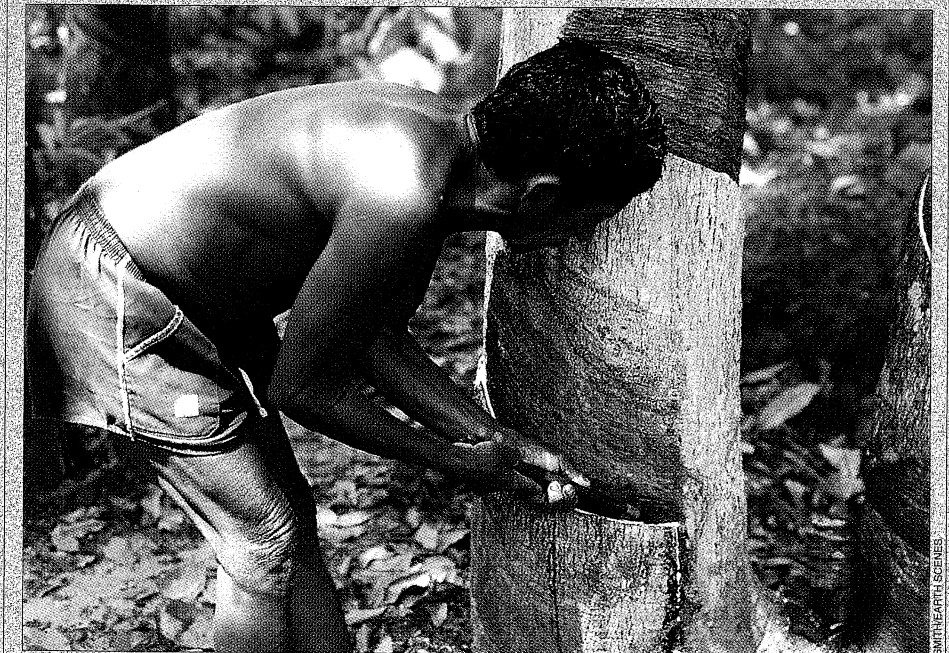
\*Interweaving cultural and environmental preservation, Profonanpe is also preparing a plan to provide greater protection for Machu Picchu, a spiritual site of the Incas located in the Peruvian Andes.

## TREETAP'S SUCCESS

Environmentalists, ethnobotanists, and forest dwellers have put forth great efforts to preserve the Amazon, and now two Brazilians have developed a unique and innovative approach. Joao Fortes and Beatriz Saldanha, working with a team of chemists and Amazon rubber tappers, developed a rubber-coated cloth that can be used to replace leather and synthetics. Because the rubber is tapped from the Amazon tree *Hevea brasiliensis* in much the same way that maple sap is taken from the sugar maples of New England, the cloth has become known as Treetap. EarthKind

is helping to promote Treetap because it is an excellent example of an environmentally sustainable product that is preserving the Amazon rain forest and its community of biological life, including its human inhabitants.

The Treetap project began in 1991, and Treetap was introduced at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. In the 1980s the dramatic drop in the price of rubber, caused by the lower cost and greater availability of synthetic materials, forced rubber tappers and their families to move to the cities of the Amazon region. Farmers, cattle ranchers, and loggers quickly moved in to take over



A rubber tapper plies his trade in Brazil. Indigenous Amazonians and rubber tappers have embraced the Treetap project enthusiastically.



Cerro Rico rises behind present-day Potosi. Al Gore invoked the memory of Potosi's downfall at the Bolivian Sustainable Development Summit.



(continued from page 42)

valuable ally of the family of civic and environmental organizations that helped to make the Bolivian Summit conference on sustainable development such an important milestone in saving our hemisphere's biodiversity and natural resources for future generations."—*Jan A. Hartke, Esq., executive director, EarthKind (USA)*

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IS REALITY

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher provided the best evidence that the world has entered a new era of international environmental diplomacy. When asked what his personal legacy would be, he cited his efforts "to integrate environmental issues into every aspect of our diplomacy."

New thinking in major international institutions and the work of nongovernmental organizations, including EarthKind, have helped to create the conditions and provide the impetus for a historic shift of priorities.

International institutions, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have begun to build developing countries' capacities to promote development and eradicate poverty by taking action that promotes nature conservation, employment, and empowerment of women. Under administrator James Gustave Speth, "the UNDP is playing a crucial role around the world, emphasizing development in a context of environmental regeneration," explains John A. Hoyt, president of EarthKind. "Working with the Alliance for United Nations Sustainable Development Programs, EarthKind is helping to ensure that decision makers are aware of the indispensability of these international activities to a more just and humane society."—*Jan A. Hartke, Esq., executive director, EarthKind (USA)*

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE IN THE MAIN-STREAM OF OUR DIPLOMACY.

—Warren Christopher



The Treetap fabric, made from liquid latex, is produced in large sheets that can be turned into purses and briefcases, among other consumer products.

and clear cut the rain forest.

The challenge was how to revive rubber tapping so the tappers and their families could remain in the Amazon rain forest. The inspiration came to the Brazilians in the form of a rubber bag known among rubber tappers as a *saco encauchado*. For generations, rubber tappers used these bags of cotton cloth covered in rubber to transport liquid latex, as well as their personal belongings, through the rain forest. It was this rough but functional folk cloth that was developed into the refined and attractive Treetap fabric.

To make Treetap, recycled cotton fabric is drenched in liquid latex, then cured over a smoky fire and set in the sun to dry. Treetap fabric develops in a variety of rich shades of brown and has a unique, soft texture. It is made in large sheets and can be turned into briefcases, purses, knapsacks, suitcases, book covers, and clothing.

One hundred seventy rubber-tapper families from four natural-reserve regions of the Amazon directly benefit from the Treetap project. Tappers receive about 50

cents for roughly two pounds of their rubber. However, the same amount of rubber converted into Treetap sheets brings them about \$5. The rubber tappers have officially been made financial partners in the Treetap project and their increased income has had a profound effect on the community at large. One village in the Yawanawa Reserve of the Gregorio River was home to only 230 people in 1990. Since the Treetap project was introduced, hundreds of former community members have been able to return to a village that now offers a much improved quality of life.

There are 213 autonomous nations of indigenous peoples and 68,000 rubber-tapper families living throughout the Amazon rain forest. Yet, despite the richness of this vast forest, nearly six million of its acres have been desecrated over the past decade alone, felled for timber, farming, and raising cattle.

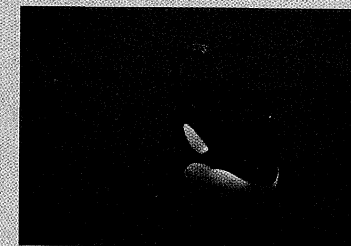
The Treetap project, along with the rubber tappers and indigenous communities, is helping to protect the more than three million acres of forest that is their true home. For more information about Mr. Fortes and Ms. Saldanha's Institute for Sustainable Development in the Amazon, please contact EarthKind.—*Jan A. Hartke, Esq., executive director, EarthKind (USA)*

# JOIN THE HSUS ON A JOURNEY OF AWARENESS

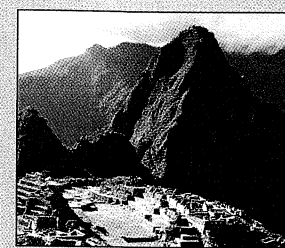
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KEIKO. Photo by Larry Cantrall



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Serengeti Elephants. Photo by Gerry Ellis.

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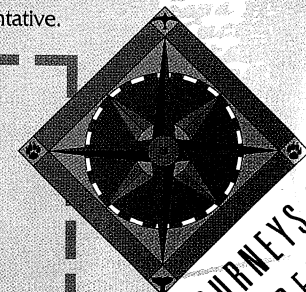
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